

PRODUCT REVIEW



ELECTRONIC SHIFTING
programmable with touch button

PORTABILITY
collapsible design

PIT STOP WHEEL
easy flat-tire changing

INTEGRATED DASH DISPLAY
speed, gear selection, and battery charge

ERGONOMIC DESIGN
adjustable for all body types

LITHIUM POWER PACK
In-frame Lithium-ion battery

Go, go gadget

Electric bike helps you get around

BY MATTHEW ORLOFF

EXPLORING DIFFERENT places is part of what makes flying so enjoyable. Once you arrive at your destination, though, you can't exactly park your airplane on Main Street. For the savvy pilot with deep pockets who may not feel like breaking a sweat, the Gocycle is a nice option to get around after tiedown.

Collapsible electric bikes have grown in popularity among pilots because they are able to fit in the baggage compartments of most airplanes. The Gocycle, a lightweight electric bicycle from Karbon Kinetics Ltd., is loaded with new technology and state-of-the-art design features.

As far as bicycles go, this is a Rolex. Designer and founder Richard Thorpe brought his experience in designing lightweight race car components to the design of the 35.4-pound magnesium alloy e-bike. This flashy electric bike probably wouldn't appeal to the budget-conscious bush pilot looking to get a good workout while mountain biking. It's more suitable for the convenience-minded pilot who likes to stick to the pavement.

Some of the Gocycle's features include pedal torque sensing, a variety of riding modes, an LED dashboard display, electronic predictive shifting, proprietary 500-watt drive motor, and the Gocycle Connect App via wireless Bluetooth. The adjustable seat post and frame are designed to fit most riders at the same contact points as a large-wheel bicycle. The Gocycle can

travel up to 40 miles on a charge, depending on pedal input. It collapses to about 24 inches by 30 inches by 12 inches for stowing.

What's neat about riding the Gocycle is the way it can sense your current speed—so long as you are continuously pedalling (it doesn't matter how hard you're pedalling so long as you are doing it)—and maintain that speed as if it were a car in cruise control. It's fun to use the Gocycle Connect App to control your pedal effort versus speed ratio and riding modes (which include City, Eco, On Demand, and Eco+). Folding it up and putting it back together again isn't too challenging a puzzle to solve.

All these features, along with its visual design, are impressive, but the real question is: Is all this really necessary? The answer to that question is up to you. If you are considering buying a collapsible electric bike, do you want to roll up to that \$100 hamburger joint in style? If so, for \$5,000, the Gocycle will do just that.

MATTHEW ORLOFF, a student pilot, served as an editorial intern for *AOPA Pilot*.

+ **WEB** www.gocycle.com