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REVIEW: BOPWORX FR AND BIKE RACK PROT



ANNA CIPULLO - JUNE 10, 2016



Too often I have marked the inside of my car shuffling bikes in and out of the boot, and too often I have seen scratches on the outside of boots where bikes have wriggled around and made a nuisance of themselves on the go. And it's not just cars that need help, it's the bikes themselves; be that rubbing against themselves or taking hard knocks as the poor things are subjected to being crammed into vehicles and bike boxes and held at the mercy of their carriage. I'm sure every cyclist has a ritual with a towel, some sponges or an old duvet sheet covered in chain oil, but there is another way... enter [Bopworx](#).



Bopworx offer a number of functional car and frame protectors that prevent the damage our bikes and vehicles eventually become subjected to when on the go. Tired of seeing rags and sponges tied to bikes on racks, and tired of wasting time wrapping their own bikes in bubble wrap before cramming them into holiday bike boxes, the creators of Bopworx tried everything on the market to make life a little less scratched up and hassle free, but nothing seemed substantial enough. Noticing a gap in the market, they set about designing their own.

The following five products are their star players, and are already being distributed in the UK. Here's what we found when using them in real life situations:

The Bop Bumper - £14.99

This is effectively a single rubber bumper designed to attach itself wherever it's needed to prevent rubbing, scuffing and bumping against anything you want to protect; be that your car or the bike itself. Despite being robust the surface and strap are made from a semi-soft compound that not only gives a little extra grip, but it ensures the bike is protected from the Bumper itself.

There's no untangling of string or nots or even fiddling with velcro here

In practice I found it very easy to use. The strap stretched and locked into place very quickly. There's no untangling of string or nots or even fiddling with velcro here; simple stretch and hook the green clip into place, and adjust the tension if needs be. I placed it on the handlebars when my bike was leaning against cars or against my garage wall when in storage, but it was also great for protecting

my bike against wheels and other components when I piled them into the back of my car (see gallery photos at the bottom for a visual of this). It would also be a great buffer in a bike box, especially soft cases or boxes that don't have separate wheel bags, but it may be a squeeze for wider mountain bikes in tight boxes.



The Bop Double Bumper - £24.99

This is basically the Bop Bumper (above), but doubled up, which means you can secure two things together with a buffer in-between. The centre swivels to allow the bumpers to rotate freely, which in turn allows you to fix each strap in any direction to get the best fit.

Its real application would be to sit between two bikes in a rear bike rack

In practice this was great for securing my front wheel to my bike when popping the whole thing in the back of the car, however, its real application would be to sit between two bikes in a rear bike rack. This would create a decent amount of space between two bikes and would stop them wiggling around or banging together. In this instance, it would be much faster and easier to use than a pack of sponges and some string, and probably much safer too.



Fork Guard - £39.99

This is one of my favourites, mainly because I transport my bike without its front wheel a lot. The Fork Guard is cleverly compatible with both quick-release and bolt-through systems. It sits under the fork to prevent them from getting scratched or bent when put on the ground. It even comes with a built-in spacer to fit in-between disc brake pads, which prevents them locking together or becoming out of alignment if the front brake lever is accidentally pushed. The soft rubber wheels also allow you to roll the bike where you want without marking up precious car interiors.

I can't tell you how many times I've carefully placed my bike on the ground and then knocked it over

In reality I loved this gadget the most. It's something you think you can do without, but becomes something you don't want leave behind once you've used it for a while. Previously, I'd lay my bike down on the ground or balance the fork on something soft, but I can't tell you how many times I've carefully placed my bike on the ground and then knocked it over or seen it subjected to a slight gust of wind. With the Fork Guard, not only does it stop my precious steeds from falling on their sides, but it protects the underside of my forks, particularly the rebound adjusters on my mountain bike. It also helps prop the bike upright, so it would be a great solution to transporting bikes in tall cars and vans. Being a set of wheels, the Fork Guard also allows you to roll it around, in and out of your vehicle easily. It really is a must if you transport your bike without the front wheel.



Rear Derailleur Guard - £19.99

This does what it says on the tin, but with a lot less faff than I expected. The Derailleur Guard simply slips between the rear cassette and the frame to offer a protective layer around the derailleur. To fit it, all you do is loosen the quick release squeeze or axle and slip it in, then tighten the release back up. Done.

There's nothing more terrifying than piling your bike into a soft bike bag and wondering if the most important and fragile part of your bike will stand up to the baggage handlers

There's nothing more terrifying than piling your bike into a soft bike bag and wondering if the most important and fragile part of your bike will stand up to the baggage handlers at the airport. Though I didn't attempt to "use" the guard properly, it's easy to see that, when laying flat on the ground, the derailleur is nowhere near harms way. The creators of Bopworx have thrown their own bikes around to test it out properly, and no derailleurs were harmed in the making of the video. I used this for long journeys in the estate car when I was carrying two bikes as, inevitably, one derailleur would always be exposed to pressure from either the car floor or the second bike on top of it. Thanks to the Guard, I could place the bike in where ever I wanted to and forget about it for the rest of the journey.



Bop Wrap (coming soon)

On it's way is the Bopwrap; Bopworx answer to total frame protection. If you've ever wrapped your bike in polystyrene tubing or bubble wrap, this is aimed at you. Made from the same semi-soft compound as the Bumpers, the Wrap will cover the frame and hook on just as easily as its family products above. Its flexibility means that it can be places practically anywhere on the bike, no matter what shaped tubing you have on your frame, or what sort of pedals you run, or even what shaped handlebars you have. This could be be a real game-changer for bike box and bike bag users, so watch this space for the product launch.

The Verdict

I can't say a bad word about these guys or their products. They've come up with a totally original idea to solve a genuine problem and have filled a real gap in the cycling market. Not only do their products do what they say they will, but they do it in a fast and tool-free manner, and their robust enough to last a lifetime or more. I'm terribly critical about things (and I get to insist that's part of my job), but I couldn't find anything to improve on these products. They're pretty awesome to be honest.

If you're precious about your bike or your car and you don't want scratches on either, then it should be a no-brainer to invest in something to protect them. Bopworx won't brake the bank and may prevent the need for hundreds of pounds worth of touch up work. Couple that with the fact that they are fast and simple to use, and they will fit every single bike you own, and I can't imagine why you wouldn't invest in some of these products.

Go to Bopworx.com to see videos of the products in action, and to find your **local stockist**. Bopworx is also being sold in many stores online.



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