

ROAD TEST



**+** **Below** The Shimano hydraulic disc brakes are a real winner...  
**Bottom** ... but the levers have a distinctive bulging profile



Cube has certainly continued its knack of spec'ing a lot of bike for the money

# CUBE ATTAIN GTC PRO

**£1499** > An all-new bike featuring Shimano's new 105 hydraulic disc brakes

Germany's Cube, best known for its well-priced bikes that are still sold through real bricks-and-mortar shops, has been a little quiet of late. Its range-topping Litenings were still impressive, but elsewhere things were starting to look a little staid. Well, Cube has got off to a flyer this year, redesigning its ever-popular Agree road bike and debuting the disc-specific Attain.

Its frame follows all the latest trends: an oversized head-tube and down-tube, beefy bottom bracket shell and chainstays, a narrowing top-tube and slender seatstays

joining the seat-tube well below the level of the top-tube, a feature becoming ever-more popular on modern comfort-orientated bikes. The primer-grey (is this 2016's 'in' colour?) and fluoro orange finish split opinions, but many loved the contrast of understated and hi-vis, and it makes a change from the usual swathes of all-black carbon.

Cube has certainly continued its knack of spec'ing a lot of bike for the money, £1500 getting you full 105 and Shimano's new BR-RS505 hydraulic brakes. Cube's own-brand CPS parts are also a notch above that found on most similarly priced bikes, as they've been made in

## SPECIFICATION

**Weight** 9.35kg (56cm)  
**Frame** Carbon  
**Fork** Carbon  
**Gears** Shimano 105 50/34, 11-32  
**Brakes** Shimano BR-RS505  
**Wheels** Fulcrum Racing Seventy Seven disc  
**Finishing kit** CPS Pro stem, bar and seatpost, Cube saddle, 25mm Continental Grand Sport Race tyres

collaboration with Germany's high-end component manufacturer Syntace. The seatpost has a very neat clamping system, the stem is light with pressure evenly spread and the bar has Syntace's rearward-6-degree sweep, which is perfect if you want to cruise on the tops. Syntace X12 thru-axles also feature at both ends. It was one of the first to adopt the 12mm diameter axle standard, claiming it offers a better stiffness-to-weight ratio than either 10 or 15mm offerings.

The Fulcrum wheels are well suited to larger volume tyres, and though a little weighty, they are built to Fulcrum's usual high

standards, and you should get thousands of miles out of them.

On the road the Attain frameset is a stunner, the blend of drivetrain stiffness and just enough give elsewhere creating an intoxicating ride. The Attain is imbued with such a willingness to handle speed that we simply wanted to keep on pushing it as hard as we could, challenging its chassis through every corner, up every climb and down every descent. The gearing helps to overcome the Cube's slight weight disadvantage when the climbs get steeper. And its high-speed handling downhill is up there with the likes of Cannondale's CAAD12 and Evo and the Cervélo C5. For such a reasonably priced machine Cube's Attain feels extremely composed and highly evolved, and good enough to mix it with the very best.

The 105 drivetrain works as well as ever, and forms a great pairing with

## HIGHS

Smooth, nimble, stable and fast

## LOWS

The overall weight may put some off

## BUYIF

You want a well-equipped bike with a stunning frame and a fine all-round ride

the hydraulic brakes. The levers (reviewed on p76) are noticeably larger than on Shimano's high-end hydraulic systems, but the lever feel is as familiar and controllable as with Shimano's pricier models. The larger handholds do feel very secure, too.

Yes, the Cube is the heaviest bike here, which may put some off, but it's easy to get hung up over weight, which is only a major issue if you do a lot of climbing. We'd say ignore the mass and simply revel in how the bike feels - firm yet smooth, nimble yet stable. It's a bike of contradictions, but one that we've developed a rather big crush on.

**THE VERDICT**  
Intoxicating mix of handling, smoothness and rapidity  
★★★★★

For such a reasonably priced machine it feels extremely composed and highly evolved

Also consider...



**FOR A LITTLE MORE**  
**CUBE ATTAIN GTC SL DISC** £1799  
The GTC SL has Ultegra gearing and DT Swiss's Spline R24 wheels, shedding weight and upping the performance. Sounds fair for £300.



**FOR A LITTLE LESS**  
**CUBE ATTAIN SL DISC** £1199  
The Attain frame in triple-butted aluminium, but it still has 12mm quick-release axles and comes with Shimano 105 and hydraulic discs.