



Clarks M2 £20

Weight 428g Contact www.clarkscycles.com

UK brake specialist Clarks has always offered impressive value for money but the new £40 for front and rear M2 set is a total game changer.

The curved reservoir and lever body with gold anodised bore cap on the neatly sculpted single-piece calliper doesn't even look that cheap. It ticks more practical boxes than a lot of not so bargain brakes too with Loctite pre-dipped bolts and an inside edge hose connection for accidental damage dodging.

It comes with long lasting, harder stopping sintered pads as standard. When they do wear out they take Shimano-style pads (even the finned ones) so finding spares will be easy. The only niggle is the single bolt clamp that makes fitting and removal slightly more awkward, but you're getting a complete front and rear brake set for less than the price of some single brake rotors from other brands.

Actual braking is okay too. It's not as touchy feely as premium brakes but it doesn't feel like you're trying to crush a mahogany plank with your fingertips. Most importantly it's predictable for as long as you pull the lever.

Power is comparatively low though so the soon to be released AM set with 180mm rather than 160mm front rotor will be well worth the extra fiver for most riders.



"Needs a 180mm rotor to compete on power, but impressively sorted for a stunningly low price."

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FIVE THINGS WE LEARNED FROM THIS TEST

1 Reliability rules: Consistent 'pull the lever and slow down' predictability trumps fancy features and materials every time.

2 Bed your brakes in: Hit steep wet hills without prepping your pads properly and you can evaporate a set in a couple of hours.

3 Simple saves stress: More bells and whistles can literally mean more squeaks and rattles compared to simple sorted systems.

4 Pads are like tyres: Switching compounds can make a big difference to performance for minimal money.

5 Don't believe the hype: Try features like bite point or leverage adjust before you buy to see if they actually make a noticeable difference.