

SANTA CRUZ HIGHBALL 29er HARDTAIL



The Highball-a follows the footsteps of their Tallboy, taking the initial carbon frame and giving a wallet-friendly alloy option. And while the carbon Highball remains a super stiff, race-oriented geared bike, the alloy model has replaceable dropouts and a singlespeed option. Other wise, geometry is the same.



It shares the same tapered headtube with external lower headset cup. The top- and down tubes on both of these bikes are squared off where they meet the headtube. The down tube rounds off, but the top tube remains square-ish while getting a bit thinner as it goes back.



Cables are hidden under the top tube using a nice triple stop routing.



The seat tube is slightly bent to tuck the rear wheel up closer and maintain a tight wheelbase. Chainstay length is 17.3" and wheelbase on the small is 44.5" (1063.2mm) and goes up to 44.5" (1129.2mm) on the XL. The seat stays get a wishbone curve and monostay upper section.



Simple standard external cup threaded BB. Both the Highball-a and Superlight are designed for use with either a double or triple crankset.



The chainstay yoke is asymmetrical to give it proper chainring clearance. The drive side is a forged piece and a small bridge keeps it all stiff without comprising tire clearance *too* much.



The Highball-a will ship with standard geared dropouts as shown here. The derailleur hanger is built into the dropout, so should things go wrong you would need to replace the entire dropout for about \$25.



The singlespeed swinger-style dropouts will be available aftermarket for around \$80, and they're pretty trick. The top bolt threads directly into the dropout and acts as the pivot. The lower bolt threads into a semi-captive square nut to hold things in place once you've got your chain tension set.



To adjust tension, you insert a 4mm allen key and twist. That bolt is captured by a larger 6mm bolt (*center pic*) The tension bolt threads through a barrel that has it's own little nest in the frame (*right*). We'd like to see the square nut be more captive so it wouldn't get lost if things get loose on the trail, but overall it's a pretty nice looking design.