iBike® Pro
Customer Reviews

We think the most authoritative reviewers of the iBike are its owners.

They've used their iBike day in and day out, for months, so they REALLY know how well it works.

We've collected recent comments from customers who own and use the iBike; we hope you will find them helpful and enjoyable.

Gene Raphaelian

Hmmm. Let's see, over the past few months I've raised my FTP from 250 to 266 and can hang with riders who dusted me previously, using the iBike and an "off-the-shelf" Hunter Allen program. A gadget? Not useful for training? Not in my case. It's great for climbs and flat intervals and if it has flaws they are consistent so I can account for them.

If the good folks at iBike have any other "gadgets" that are this reliable (how many "my PT doesn't work" posts have I read on other forums this past week?); easy-to-use; inexpensive (relative to their competition); and generate this kind of performance boost, I'm all ears.

Kevin Kimmich

The iBike is USEFUL for TRAINING and IS more THAN a GADGET and is MUCH CHEAPER THAN any OTHER powermeter on THE MARKET TTOODDAAYY!!!

I don't have an ERGOMO or a POWERTAP or a SRM because I didn't WANT TO BLOW ANOTHER $1000+ on my cycling HABIT. I WOULD LIKE ONE SOMEDAY, but the IBIKE has done the job so FAR so maybe I will INVEST the $1000 or give it to CHARITY.

I have USED the IBIKE for SIX (6) MONTHS and find it USEFUL, despite its LIMITATIONS.

The ROUGH ROAD problem is still a little irritating. The fix in the firmware didn't really give me any better results on my favorite brick road when I hammer down there Paris Roubaix style. That's no big deal to me, though.

TURNS? I don't know how to respond to THAT. All my training rides are STRAIGHT. Just kidding. I never noticed a power reading through a turn, because, ya know, I was trying not to CRASH.

DRAFTING. It seems to work for me, though I don't have anything to compare with. Cross winds and tail winds seem to produce sketchy readings at times.

My advice would be, if you have over $1000 to spend on a power meter, don't go the iBike route. If you want to train with power, and don't want to blow big money, buy an iBike and you'll be pretty happy.

David Puglia

I have tested my iBike and my PowerTap side by side for 6 months. I have two PowerTap wheels and I can't get them to read within 30-40 Watts of one another - even after numerous calls to Saris. I have, however, matched my iBike to one of the hubs and in general the readings are within 5-10 Watts of one another. All training tools are "gadgets" - be it an iBike, PowerTap, Ergomo, or SRM. Once you set up these tools and establish your baseline you are looking for trends over time in your training fitness and performance throughout the year. Sure the iBike has limitations but have you ever tried to use software from the Saris Cycling Group - total crap. Most of my team mates have retired their PowerTap rigs because of unreliability. Each Power Training tool has its limitations - Ergomo only reads the left leg and "estimates" power. You have to send your SRM Crank back to the factory to get the battery change etc.. The iBike has a place in this industry given it's price performance. I have raced with it on my track, TT, and Road Bike. I have also mounted it on my fixed gear and cross bike. It's a real training tool - regardless of limitations.

Andy Shen

From what I understand, the iBike smoothes its data a bit more than the Powertap. So when you spike the power from 100 to 400, it'll lag behind the PT a bit and report lower wattages. The reverse is true when you go down in power. But it's just a 2-3 second delay (in my experience). Once the power levels off I've found it to be pretty precise.

Stuart Lynne

... as an entry level power device the iBike is a very useful tool. It is less expensive than the other low cost alternative (Polar) and is (for the most part) easier to install and use.

Complaining that it isn't as good as PowerTap or Ergomo or SRM at 3-5 times the price is like my complaining that my Miata can't keep up to a Por[s]che..

[Turns]: I do see this on the Track. But I was warned that it was not designed for the track, so live with it. I can't say I have noticed it on the road.

And for training on the road, for the most part I have been using both Polar and iBike recently. But only importing iBike into CyclingPeaks.

PowerTap and Ergomo are closer to $1500. And typically more. For PowerTap you probably will end up buying more than one hub so you can have power for training and racing. For Ergomo different cranks and
possibly another hub if you do more than one type of riding (road vs time trial etc.)

Compare the cost of another iBike mount to a second hub or hub for a second bike.....

My recommendation is use the iBike to get to a competitive level.

Until then the money is better spent on upgrading your bike(s) and wheel sets.

Robin Horwitz

I've had a SRM and I-bike for the past few weeks. I wanted the facts to
speak for itself rather than giving my opinion. Here are the links of SRM - I-bike comparison
http://www.thresholdpower.com/images/ibike_SRM_comparison_2.gif
http://www.thresholdpower.com/images/ibike_SRM_comparison.gif
Clearly, each powermeter has its pros and cons. I think the nicest thing out there right now is

cyclists have choices. I-bike clearly is a product people can purchase or not. I just don't see any logic in bashing a powermeter down.

Bob Kaplan

I recently purchased and tested the iBike power meter. After several hundred miles on a variety of roads in Rockland, Orange, and Bergen Counties - running simultaneously with my PowerTap SL meter, I'm very impressed with the iBike's performance. Taking advantage of Newton's 3rd law of motion, the iBike measures the forces a cyclist must overcome (air, gravity, inertia, mechanical friction), rather than directly measuring the forces being put out (usually torque). They accomplish this by packaging some incredibly small and inexpensive electronic sensors, in a very compact 2 oz. package. If you want a better explanation of this technology, go to: http://www.ibikesports.com

Very clever- but does it work?

Well --- in a few hundred miles of testing, the difference between my iBike and PT in aggregate and average of power and work have been well under 5%. Given the inherent variability in all of these devices, this is a very good result. Here are my personal pros and cons on the iBike:

Pros

- Relatively low cost ($400) and light weight (2 oz.)
- Easy to install
- Easy to move from bike to bike - no special (and expensive) hubs, cranks, and bottom brackets.
- Can use light weight and/or aerodynamic wheels on race day
- Good user manual
- CyclingPeaks Software included for data analysis
- Additional data on hill gradient, altitude, course profile, total ascent and descent. No other power meters give you this data.

Cons

- Requires careful set up calibration. Not hard to do; but you wont get good results otherwise. Of course, once you get it dialed in, it's pretty easy to keep the calibration up to date.
- Heart rate monitor not yet available. One is being developed, and will only require a new wiring harness and firmware.
- Can't be used on a stationary trainer.
- While the basic iBike software is useful for uploading and downloading set up calibration and firmware updates; it lacks functionality for detail analysis. However, the included CyclingPeaks software solves that problem.
- Sensitivity to very rough road surfaces. If you plan on riding lots of cobblestones, or very rough roads ala Costa Rica - the iBike may not work. In several hundred miles of local riding however, this wasn't a problem for me.

Bottom line:

If you are looking for an inexpensive light weight power meter, which you can use on race day, then the iBike is worth your consideration.

Steve Davidson

I agree with Stuart and Kevin. The iBike is very useful for training. I'm an engineer and have only ever used a heart rate monitor for training and wrote my own Mathcad and excel models to analyse specific workouts and estimate power. I was pretty happy with my setup but really wanted a data logger for my training and was going down the Garmin GPS route until the Ibike came along. I paid £240 for the Ibike including shipping import etc. to the UK, around the same price as a Garmin GPS.

Now all I really needed was a data logger but I got more than that as I now have very valuable wind speed data and some useful power estimations. A decent anemometer with data logger is around £600 and doesn't really fit well on your handlebars. Lets face it a decent heart rate monitor is around the £150 to £200 mark. The wind speed data and coast down data is useful even if you already have one of the other power meters that cost megabucks. I also required something to fit all of my bikes (road, TT and hub geared winter training hack bike). The only alternative power device for me would have been the SRM system (amateur version is around £1600 - about the same cost as a decent bike).

As for power output accuracy the guys at iBike only ever claimed that it was comparable to other power meters and that it certainly is. It may not be bang on in every instance but who cares? If someone wants to analyse to the nearest 10 or 20 watts then go and pay for an SRM.

But hold on, how can anyone hold a power value within 10 or 20 watts in training other than indoors or in a velodrome. The resistance forces that you have to overcome unless you are going slow up a constant gradient hill are highly variable. Something that measures wind speed as a component for the power calculation is always going to give a slightly different result to something that measures strain to derive torque and hence power as the wind is more variable out on the road due to wind shear and turbulence. The Ibike does really well, a lot better that I thought it would be.

I thought about buying a powertap until I saw the price and realized that I would need several new wheels, it wouldn't work on all of my bikes and there are still issues with reliability (and how do you know the reading is correct in the first place?). In the UK the lowest price for an Ergomo is around £800 and that only that only measures the output from your left leg and has to go back to the factory for regular overhauls (and who wants to change a bottom bracket on their bike to switch the power meter around?).

You don't even need a power meter to train/race properly its just a little icing on the cake. Valverde doesn't use one and Obree set some world records without even using a heart rate monitor for training.

What does a runner or swimmer do? Heart rate has been good enough for most pro athletes for years. In a TT I still use my heart rate monitor and only look at the iBike data after the ride.

Anyway I think the Ibike is a good product and is improving all the time with feedback from users. Most of the issues that people have had have been fixed promptly with firmware upgrades and some of the limitations can be improved quite simply (I've suggested an idea to John that I think goes some way to improving the unit in severe crosswind conditions).

Al I need now is the heart rate and cadence functions enabled and it will be ideal.