

V.I.B.

VERY IMPORTANT BIKE

OLYMPIA 849 SPECIAL

› Ultra-light 120th anniversary Italian superbike

Olympia celebrated its 120th birthday last year by producing its lightest carbon frameset to date – at 849g it's one of the lightest production frames around. The Italian company's UK distributor, Poshbikes, put together this exclusive build for a customer, and allowed us to photograph it first.

The spec sheet reads like a wishlist of components for the obsessive weight weenie. The AX-Lightness AX3000 carbon brakes (1) weigh just 82.9g per pair – that's less than a single Dura-Ace brake; the 11cm AX-Lightness Zeus stem is 61g and the Schmolke handlebar 138g. But for really eye-popping low weights, Schmolke's 70g TLO seatpost (2) and Tune's 35g Concord carbon saddle take some beating.

The bike has been built to the requirements of a customer with deep pockets and an understanding partner. We did ask whether this 11-grand machine was destined to be merely a display piece, but Poshbikes assured us that the customer is a regular who has had a succession of similar value bikes that have all been ridden hard between services.

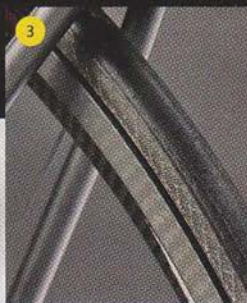
The wheels are where you'll see the biggest weight savings compared with a standard bike. The special edition Tune Skyline wheels feature the German company's ultra-light Mig front and Mag rear hubs –

which weigh just 45g and 90g respectively (Dura-Ace hubs are 120 and 247g). The rear hub is so light because it does away with a traditional pawl engagement, which uses springs for the freehub – replacing it with a setup using magnets instead. Much lighter, naturally. It's a closely guarded design unique to Tune, and it gives the freehub a unique sound too. Tune's Skyline carbon rims (3) contribute a mere 220g each. The wheels in total weigh 798g – that's not only the lightest we've ever seen, it's lighter than a rear Mavic Ksyrium SSC SL.

All this exotica adorns a frame created in Italy using a mix of T800, T1000 and M40J carbon fibres from the Japanese company Toray. It's the use of T1000 that makes a difference to the weight compared with a standard Olympia frame. Its high tensile strength means less material is needed to achieve the necessary strength and stiffness.

At just 4.26kg – or 9.39lb if you prefer – you could weigh this bike on a set of kitchen scales. To put it in a cycling context, that's about half the weight of our bike of the year. Even scarier is that Poshbikes believes that with a few 'upgrades' and perhaps a shorter stem and shorter seatpost – the customer is quite tall – it could get the build down to 3.5kg. www.olympiacicli.it

SPECIFICATION WEIGHT 4.26kg **FRAME** Carbon (849g) **FORK** Carbon (365g) **GEARS** Campagnolo Super Record **BRAKES** AX-Lightness AX3000 **WHEELS** Tune Skyline **FINISHING KIT** Tune Concord carbon saddle, Tune Skyline bottle cage, Tune skewers, THM Clavicula cranks, Schmolke TLO handlebar and seatpost, AX Zeus stem





The Olympia barely troubles the scales – its 4.26kg weight is about half that of our bike of the year!