

French launch MTB quad

A very polished design of off-road recumbent quad (pictured right), the QBX, was launched recently by its French manufacturers. They've been developing the machine since 1999 apparently, and it's made appearances at many major MTB events. There are Hope disk brakes on both front wheels, and the rear wheels share a third one. There are also complex suspension and drive systems which add up to a weight of around 27 kg, and a price of €6590. But it does look the business!

QBX Quad: see
www.quadbikexcycles.com



QUADBIKE

Readers may remember our note in 'News' last issue about the launch of the QX4 Quadbike from France. This elaborately engineered, €6590 off-road quad is even more impressive in the flesh, and it was nice to meet the



machine's designer, Hugues Escarguel. He explained that the elaborate front suspension construction was necessary to allow clearance for the rider's feet – this places the rider's weight right between the wheels for better handling and traction. It also means that when jumping you're more likely to land the right way up!

For simplicity, there's no differential in the rear axle, but Hugues says



that this isn't a problem off-road, where surfaces tend to be loose. It wasn't really a problem on flat surfaces either, as I rode the quad

around the trade show briefly. I was very impressed by the super-stable ride and the well-tuned suspension. In contrast to the Pirol trike (see below), the Quadbike didn't roll noticeably in corners. The rear axle is rigid, with just a simple swingarm suspension, and this keeps the vehicle upright. The steering was also very light and positive, and the 'car steering wheel' style action of the handlebars worked really well.

Overall a splendid device, and you get plenty of engineering for your considerable investment. It might make a uniquely stable and comfortable off-road tourer (maybe add electric assist too?) or just a fabulous plaything. The makers say they'd love to welcome readers to their base in the Carcassonne region of France for some test riding, or they'll also be at several events around Europe: contact them for details. **Quadbike: Tel +33 872 6060 11 or see www.quadbikexcycles.com**