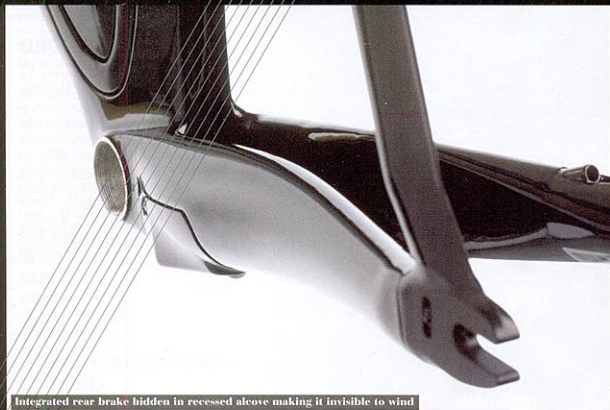
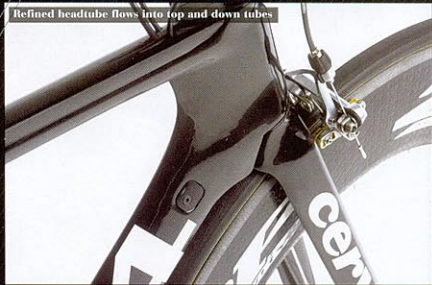


Easy to use rear wheel adjusters



Refined headtube flows into top and down tubes



Integrated rear brake hidden in recessed alcove making it invisible to wind



Aero profile tubes help wind pass smoothly over for least resistance



Integrated fork and tube shape with lower downtube



The funky looking water bottle actually helps with aerodynamics



Bike Boutique: **Cervelo P4**

This space age looking bike is the latest in time trial and triathlon design to come from Canadian bike manufacture Cervelo. It is designed to be the fastest and most aerodynamic bike available. Cervelo was started in 1995 when two engineers, Phil White and Gerard Vroomen, decided to create a time trial bike that was faster than those already available.

The two had been involved in bike design and aerodynamics working in the world of Human Powered Vehicles (HPV). Vroomen was approached by a top ranked Italian pro racer who asked him to build the fastest time trial bike available for him because he wanted something faster than what his sponsors were able to build with traditional tube sets.

Vroomen and his team set to work and produced something very different from the norm that offered the best aerodynamics without compromising weight and stiffness. It wasn't about creating a bike for market but producing the best bike for the job. The radical design revisited the rulebooks in terms of looks and design but the end result hit the target on the head.

Both Vroomen and White - who were personally involved in both road racing and triathlon - gained massive interest from all that saw the bike. In 1996 they took the plunge and started Cervelo, only making bikes out of aluminium at the time to make them more marketable and affordable. The bikes were an instant success on both the triathlon and road scene. Since then Cervelo have made more traditional road bikes too with much acclaim.

Roll the clock forward nearly a decade and the predecessor to the P4, the P3, which was made of carbon fibre, had become the bike to own in both time trial racing and triathlon. This bike had huge success winning many Ironman events, time trials and even the Olympics as Switzerland's Fabian Cancellara pedalled his to gold in Beijing.

The new carbon fibre P4 takes the design one step further to make the P3 faster while achieving equivalent or better performance relative to all the other variables including stiffness, weight, power transmission and comfort. After all, an Ironman triathlete who has to run a marathon after riding 112 miles certainly needs to get off the bike without feeling too battered from the ride.

The design isn't radically different but it's the fine details that have helped this bike achieve its design goals. Cervelo's P4 has new aero profile tubes to improve airflow over its curves, a new integrated fork, a front wheel cutaway on the downtube, a completely new rear brake hidden under the chainstays and an integrated water bottle that helps with air flow too.

Just its looks alone are to die for, yet this odd looking machine is all about performance. From early reports and Cervelo's claims it has hit the proverbial nail right on the bounce. If you want the ultimate in speed the P4 could be the fastest bike available. All of this comes at a price though; the frame and fork will cost you £3,499.99.

For more info: www.ultimatetripsuits.co.uk or www.cervelo.com *