



## Press release HP Velotechnik GrassHopper Bicycle show Interbike Las Vegas Oct 12-14, 2003



Mechanical engineer Daniel Pulvermüller enjoying a ride on the new GrassHopper

picture: GHP\_Mitzieher\_links.jpg 21x16 cm at 300 dpi

### New at Interbike show: Touring bike GrassHopper by HP Velotechnik with ergonomic Body Link Seat gives maximum riding comfort

At the international bike show Interbike in Las Vegas HP Velotechnik present their new touring bike GrassHopper.

With this fully suspended compact sporty bike the German recumbent specialists from Kriftel near Frankfurt address cyclists who enjoy a fast ride and seek maximum seating comfort.

The ergonomically shaped recumbent seat and the bottom bracket that lies with 67 cm (26") significantly above the seating height of 54 cm (21") support an aerodynamic riding position so that the rider stays fresh and relaxed on a long ride. Both effects make the GrassHopper the perfect touring bike.

"Imagine you get off your bike after a long sporty riding day and the only ache you're feeling is a tingling in your thighs. You can simply relax about an aching bottom, numb private parts, aching intervertebral discs or a stiff neck", CEO Paul Hollants describes the most prominent advantage of the new recumbent.

This ergonomic seating comfort is possible with the

new Body Link Seat by HP Velotechnik.

On a conventional bike saddle your entire body weight lies on a very small area. Recumbents, which can be seen more and more often on the road today, offer a considerably larger seating area. However, the seats that have been in use to this day forced the back into a rigid shape or did not allow a defined ergonomic position of the lumbar support.

The new Body Link Seat adjusts to the natural S-shape of the spine: the combination of a rigid anatomically shaped seating shell and a slightly curved back rest with a flexible joint offers the rider a good support over a large area. The height of the front seat edge and the lumbar support easily adjusts with a quick release lever. The same goes for the back rest: in the city you will prefer an erect position on the GrassHopper for a good overall view, in the country you will probably prefer a flat position to take advantage of the recumbent's excellent aerodynamics.

"Who likes riding upright against the wind, anyway?"



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On a conventional bike it takes 80% of your energy at 30km/h to overcome the air resistance. With the GrassHopper, however, you enjoy a relaxed ride and at the same time travel like a fast arrow" technical engineer Daniel Pulvermüller explains.

The GrassHopper likes smooth tarmac roads as well as off road trails or from time to time a stop at a nice outdoor cafe. The adjustable suspension at both wheels makes you enjoy even bad roads since the well-established no squat design by HP Velotechnik works without any influence from pedalling forces. For the front wheel you can choose between 3 different Meks Carbon suspension forks, at the back wheel a hydraulically damped spring element (the ultra light DT Swiss Damper on demand) spares the intervertebral discs and makes the bike easy to handle.

You steer the GrassHopper either with a foldable above seat steering or an indirect under seat steering. The well-balanced steering geometry allows even an untrained cyclist to quickly adapt to the GrassHopper and enjoy a swift ride. Handling is easy also in narrow streets because of the compact design with the robust aluminum frame and the smoothly running 20" wheels.

At 170 cm (67") length and 100 cm height the GrassHopper is not longer but flatter than a conventional trekking bike. This comes in handy when you want to take along your GrassHopper with your car or carry it upstairs.

For safe braking the bike comes with rim brakes (Tektro V-brake/Magura HS33) or disc brakes (Tektro/Magura Julie or Marta). The gears shift with Srams DualDrive or Shimano derailleur gear. On demand, HP Velotechnik mounts the 14-speed hub gear by Rohloff. Nifty accessories include for example the smoothly running SON hub generator.

The bike weighs approx. 13,9 kg (30.8 lbs) and will be available from March 2004, starting at a price of US\$ 1.990 from specialist dealers throughout the U.S. and abroad.

For more information call ++49 6192 97 99 20 or take a look at [www.hpvelotechnik.com](http://www.hpvelotechnik.com)

**Background information HP Velotechnik**

HP Velotechnik has up to now been known in Germany for their comfort cycle Spirit, the touring bike Street Machine Gt and the sports bike Speedmachine. With the new GrassHopper they address the large group of sporty touring cyclists. The company was founded in 1993 by Paul Hollants (29) and Daniel Pulvermüller (31). With a total of 12 employees they manufacture in Kriftel approx. 700 recumbents per year and with that they are the market leader in Germany. At the same time, expansion is going on: the recumbents are sold in Germany and Europe; an increasing number is exported to Australia, Japan and the USA. For more information take a look at [www.hpvelotechnik.com](http://www.hpvelotechnik.com).

**HP Velotechnik at the trade show:**

**Interbike** Las Vegas 11-14.10.2003

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