

HP Velotechnik Gekko fx 26
Eurobike trade show Friedrichshafen 08/26 - 08/30/2014



New for 2015: Large wheels even for entry-level models

Recumbent specialist HP Velotechnik treats the low-cost „Gekko“ class to a notchback / Large rear wheel provides a smoother ride and less rolling resistance / Despite the size increase: the „Gekko fx 26“ can be folded up small enough to fit in a car trunk in ten seconds without tools

(Summary) FRIEDRICHSHAFEN. The recumbent manufacturer HP Velotechnik has expanded its product ranges across the entire trike segment. The model offensive does not only include the premium area with the new „Scorpion plus“ SUV trike; even sector new-comers can enjoy a sporty range of products for this ever-more popular vehicle class at this year's Eurobike (26 – 30 August): the touring bike series has been expanded to include a truly sporty new bike in the form of the „Gekko fx 26“. At the company's booth in the west foyer (FWV 300), visitors can gain a first-hand insight into how the elegant and dynamic geometric design including a large rear wheel can cut a great figure even on speedsters without full suspension.

Whereas 26" rear wheels at HP Velotechnik were previously only available in the premium class, the smooth-running big wheels have now also found their way into the price segment below 2,300 Euros. The asymmetrical structure with two steered wheels at the front and one rear wheel as a drive is simply predestined for different wheel sizes. And this is not only because of the effects on the ride behavior but also due to the highly dynamic design (after all, appearances count): the notchback and accentuated seat contours give the formerly rather tame Gekko a brand new flavor.

In introducing these changes, the German manufacturer is representing current trends: just as the larger wheels are currently taking over in the conventional bike market, they are also playing a major role in the trike class. The benefits are clear: the big wheels behind the cockpit makes the ride noticeably more comfortable. The key elements in this regard are a smoother ride, less rolling resistance, and easier obstacle traversing. Despite the new penchant for being bigger, like all Gekko models, the „fx 26“ can still be made extremely small – in an instant: a practiced trike rider takes just ten seconds to fold up his vehicle to a compact size of just 107 x 83 x 58 cm (42" x 33" x 23"). Thanks for the patented dual flat fold system, all the parts remain on the bike while doing so. This even applies to the optional electrical accessory drive with rechargeable battery (558 Wh, 36 V).

The „Gekko fx 26“ touring trike will be available from specialist dealers in Magma red or Deep blue from November 2014 with a starting price of 2,290 Euros. As with all HP Velotechnik bikes, it is manufactured using the modular system and can be equipped with optional components, such as two different motor versions (total price from 3,829 Euros). For further information, please visit www.hpvelotechnik.com or phone +49 61 92 - 97 99 20.

[Page 2 of the press release on the HP Velotechnik Gekko fx 26]

(Long version) FRIEDRICHSHAFEN. Big entrance for the little Gekko: the entry-level model from HP Velotechnik will be exhibited at the Eurobike trade fair (26 – 30 August) with a large 26-inch rear wheel. With the Gekko fx 26, the specialist bike manufacturer is presenting its first trike with different wheel sizes for less than 2,300 euros. The elegant speedster can be viewed at the HP Velotechnik stand in the west foyer (FW 300).

Some designs have an instant impact. In the bike sector, recent examples include fatbikes and hydroformed frames. In relation to sporty trikes, the design language with the large solo rear wheel is developing into a comparable trademark. The specialist press recently claimed that the premium model in this sector, the Scorpion fs 26, has the stuff to become the trike „icon“. „After the success of the large Scorpion, it was only appropriate to treat its little brother to such an appearance“, explained Paul Hollants, Managing Director of HP Velotechnik. The signals from the market were clear – the trend is for larger wheels. However, the specialist bike segment can avail of a further special aspect in relation to the 'big wheels' from the American pioneers: „The asymmetrical structure with two front wheels for steering and a rear drive is simply predestined for different wheel sizes.“

The fact that the large wheel behind the seat is more than just a designer whim is clearly highlighted by Hollant's co-partner and head of development Daniel Pulvermüller: „The 26-inch wheel offers a far smoother ride. There are benefits in terms of rolling resistance and the bike can traverse obstacles far more easily.“ This is of particular advantage on the Gekkos without full suspension. A more voluminous tire can be fitted, which, when used with a moderate tire pressure, cushions the impact of uneven surfaces more successfully.

From a design perspective, the Kriftel-based engineers have only entered new territory in a few areas. According to Pulvermüller, integrating the smooth-running powerhouse at the rear „was no problem at all thanks to the previous experience gained with the Scorpion“. The patented folding of the trike using the dual flat fold hinge also works as seamlessly as ever. After loosening two quick releases, it takes only ten seconds to fold up the trike to a size of just 107 x 83 x 58

cm (42" x 33" x 23" / L x W x H) for transportation. No tools are required and all parts, such as the seat and wheels, remain attached to the frame.

However, Pulvermüller continued: „We had to modify the frame for the 26-inch bike, and in doing so were able to use our imagination.“ The result is that the rear end now looks far more dynamic. The accentuated seat stay appears to direct its tension straight into the vehicle's command seat. Together with the ergonomically formed seat tubes, this gives the larger Gekko a new, elegant design language.

Electric Gekko now also with a reverse gear

According to the manufacturer, this is part of the popular modular system: the trike manufacturer can build its bikes in more than a hundred-thousand versions. Customers search for the options they desire in several categories such as brakes, gears or lights – and receive a custom-designed trike in line with their specifications. HP Velotechnik has made further refinements to the modular range for the 2015 season. „I believe that we are sensibly rounding off the power lifting for our Gekkos with multiple exciting new options such as the electrical reverse gear and the hand rest“, commented Hollants.

The most spectacular new feature is the hub motor with an electric reverse gear designed in cooperation with the premium supplier GO SWISSDRIVE. Reversing electrically assisted with a limited maximum speed of 3 km/h (2 mph) is no problem due to the sound stand of the trikes.

But the swiss motor can deliver much more: the new remote control is attached directly to the handle. All switching can be done intuitively with a thumb on the remote control, rather than having to look at it, though the large new TFT color display (3.2") does allow for easy overview and control. Furthermore the unit is very flexible: Ready for Bluetooth 4.0 communication it allows phonecall visualization during the ride. Service data exchange is possible via app. In addition the USB connector enables the rider to charge USB devices up to 5V / 1A.

The motor can be individually programmed with different profiles. „Start power“ for example lets the motor push forward with extra force when taking off. According to the makers the new motor offers high efficiency even at low revs, which is to say that the motor will run smoothly even at slow speeds with a high current flow. In addition to this the new refined lithium ion rechargeable battery pack (36V) delivers a whopping increase of 25% power capacity at 558 Wh. Thus the HP Velotechnik dual propulsion option with two battery packs evenly mounted under the seat for a low center of gravity, will allow for assisted riding distances of up to 260 kilometers (162 miles).

Hollants also stated that there is a brand new range of „Comfort and Ability“ options: Anyone wanting to use one



[Page 3 of the press release on the HP Velotechnik Gekko fx 26]



Technical data Gekko fx 26

Basic model, other components on option

Frame :	Gekko fx 26 (Alu 7005 T6) 10 years warranty
Color :	Magma Red or Deep Blue, other colors on option
Tires (front):	Tryker by SCHWALBE (20")
Tires (rear):	Marathon Racer by SCHWALBE (26")
Seat:	ErgoMesh (airy mesh seat)
Seat height / angle:	35 cm / 34 – 42°
Brakes :	2 x AVID BB7 disc brakes
Gear system:	24-speed SRAM X4, with grip shifter
Wheelbase:	114 cm
Length :	187 – 219 cm (adjustable for riders with height from 160 – 200 cm)
Width/Track width:	83 cm / 78 cm
Weight :	starting from 16,7 kg
Ground clearance:	13 cm
Turning circle:	4,65 m
Max. Payload	up to 130 kg
Package measuring:	107 x 83 x 58 cm (with removed front wheels: 107 x 74 x 51 cm)
Motor /	GO SWISSDRIVE 250W, Li-Ion, 36 V,
Rechargeable	558 Wh, range 130 km;
Battery Pack	or BIONX PL250M, 26 V, 250 Wh, 65 km (rider with 68 kg, low force amplification, plain, no adverse wind)
Price:	starting from 2.290,- €, with motor by GO SWISSDRIVE starting from 4.780,- € / with BIONX starting from 3829,- €
Available :	from November 2014

of the company's trikes following a sports injury will find special brackets, which could help for example mobilizing legs or arms. However, comfort is also available as a „casual accessory for everyday use“ in the form of a hand rest. You don't have to be a cycling globetrotter to quickly notice that the little cushion under the handlebar grips „provides outstanding respite for the hands“. Riders can cruise through the countryside as casually as when driving a car with their arm resting on the center console.

The German specialist bike manufacturer regards such comfort options as „anything but minor details“. Hollants: „In designing our technically advanced trikes, we are striking a balance between bikes and cars.“ After all, the future is looking bright for bikes everywhere as a form of transport. However, to appeal to car drivers, who regard their vehicles as a thoroughly digitized all-inclusive packages, „today's bikes have to impress with their details as well“.

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A large range of press photos is available for download from:
www.hpvelotechnik.com/GEL_Foto

For further informations (only for the desk):

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Hint for editors: For separate press releases on the new models „Scorpion plus 26“ and „Scorpion plus 20“ see: www.hpvelotechnik.com/presse/Neuheit-Liegerad-Scorpion_plus_26_e.html or www.hpvelotechnik.com/presse/Neuheit-Liegerad-Scorpion_plus_20_e.html

HP Velotechnik at the trade shows

Eurobike: 26.08.2014 (DemoDay, only trade visitors): Fair Friedrichshafen, Parking Area East I, Stand DD-514

27. – 30. August (27th – 29th only trade visitors / open to the general public on 30th): Fair Friedrichshafen, Foyer West, booth FW-300;

E-Trike-test parcours: Eastern outdoor area, booth FG0-109.

Interbike: September 10 – 12, Mandalay Bay Convention Center in Las Vegas, NV, booth 3061.

Background information on HP Velotechnik

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HP Velotechnik has developed 16 recumbent models across the entire class spectrum from everyday bikes to racers. All models are available with powerful electric motors on request. Recently, the fullsuspension e-trike Scorpion fs 26 Enduro caused a sensation and won the renowned Eurobike Design Award 2013.

Even as students, the company founders Hollants and Pulvermüller were national champions with their cabin trike in the Association of German Engineers' 1992 JUTEC youth and technology competition. This provided the foundation stone for their development from a garage laboratory to one of Germany's most innovative bike companies. In 2012, HP Velotechnik was once again named as one of Germany's three best bike manufacturers by the bike industry association VSF. For further information, please visit www.hpvelotechnik.com