

MY BIKE



I LOVE BIKES.

Some of my earliest memories
are being on a bike.

Definition: A bicycle is a vehicle with two
wheels which you ride by sitting on it and
pushing two pedals with your feet.

You steer it by turning a bar that is
connected to the front wheel.

I remember as a young child,

my Dad coming to pick me
up from nursery, and him putting me
on the back of his bike.

The feeling of flying above the
ground. Magical...

probably my earliest memories.

Iloveybike.

My bike is my bike.

Chosen by me. This bike is not stock.

You cant just buy my bike.

Because my bike, is my bike.

You could copy my bike? Build one similar.

But this one, is mine.



. Bikes have always been a constant
in my life. An object i,ve always relied
on when needing a feeling of freedom and
fun.

Freedom from schedules.

Freedom from lifes worries.

Freedom from reliance and responsibility.

A healthy way to escape real life.

Bikes are for everyone. Bikes see no class, no social structure. Bikes allow for inclusivity. Needing minimal equipment to have fun.

One of the things i love most about bikes.

RELIANCE

Having spent my childhood growing up in Bristol, the importance of bikes on peoples lives was very apparent. Youd see homeless people cycling around, bags for life ha-ning from all possible , hanging possibilities. Filled with thier only essential life possessions. Riding on one flat tire, a staffie precariously balanced on the bars, all whilst riding one handed, (can of K cider in the other).

This kind of reliance people have on bikes is what draws me to them so much.

This reliance works both ways. Bikes rely souly on power provided from its rider. An interdependant relationship. Marriage.

Bikes are used by everyone.

With implementations of city wide bike share systems, such as Londons beloved Lime bikes, you now dont even need to own a bike, to love, use and rely on them.

"Lime says that since launch, the scheme's e-bikes have been used for near five million trips, covering eight million miles. That included a record 2.4 million trips last year, as the popularity of active transport increased in the Covid-19 pandemic."

This relationship is amplified by their design as they have been designed

with the intention of being accessible, with the intention of people being able to fix and change parts when necessary. User friendly. This creates a connections between me and my bike. I take pride in knowing how it works, and how to fix it if needed.

I also know about how its parts were manufactured and built, understanding ~~and~~ appreciate its life before it was mine.

There has been a rise in alternative cycling styles. No longer are all serious cyclists striving for the lightest, newest, most aero equipment. Worrying over slim margins, milligrams and the necessary costume of full lycra. Instead, the bike community are turning turning adventure cycling. Bike packing. Bike touring. Although something that has been around for a long time. It now has a new face.

The focus is now to make bikes as functional and as durable as possible.

This way of looking at bikes as tools for adventure intises me. Eventually leading me to book a bike tour of my own.

This survivalist use of the bike, is one most similar to that of the avergae person.

The commuter.

The deliverer.

Fitness.

Freedom.

Fun.

...

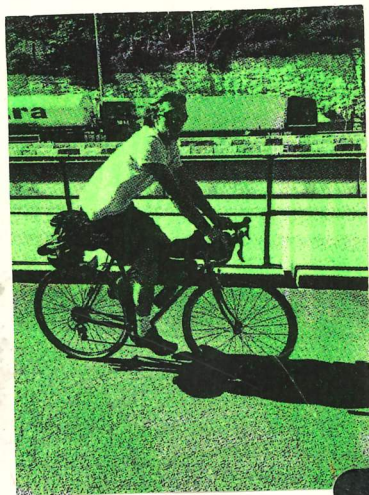
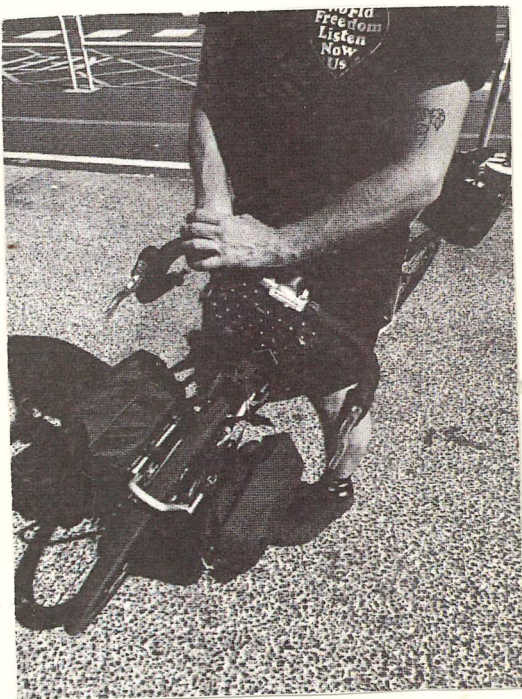
"Some say bike-packing is in that state of flux right now. It has captured the imagination of a new group of people who want to camp out on their bikes, ride trails, explore the world, and the venture into the great outdoors."



BIKE TRIPS.

On the 16th of June 2022, me and my dad decided to embark on a week long bike tour exploring Belgium. We cycled on average 5 hours everyday, covering a total of 300 kilometres over 4 days. In a heat wave... Our bikes made doubly as heavy, as we carried all our essential belongings in panniers and and variuos other bike bags. I LOVED IT.

I LOVED IT.



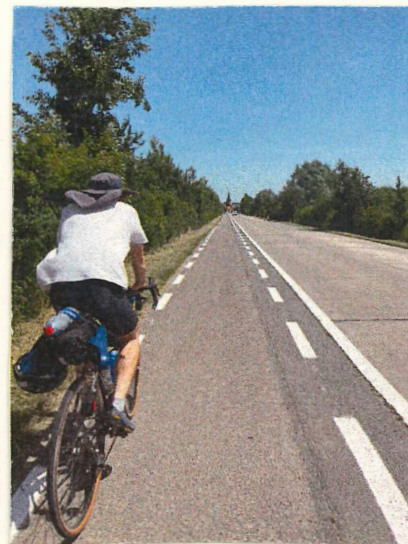
Mr

LIST FOR BIKE TOWN:

PINKIE KIPAK KIT x2 ✓
 PINKIE ✓
 MOUTH - TOOL ✓
 NEMME ✓ x2
 TOOTH BRUSH & TOOTH PASTE ✓
 ADOREANT. ✓
 SUNGLASSES ✓
 CLOTHING SHOES ✓ x2 ✓
 TSHIRTS x 4 ✓
 SOCKS x 4 ✓
 CLOTHING SHOES ✓
 BRINKENSTOCKS. ✓
 CHANGERS. ✓
 PORTABLE CHANGERS. ✓
 WATER BOTTLES. ✓
~~CANALS~~ ✓
 MISSILES. ✓
 LIPS x2 ✓
 JACKET ✓
 CLOTHING CAPS. ✓
 SMISS MIM KIT ✓

Whilst on this trip, I felt most connected to my bike. As I was cycling longer than I ever have done, it allowed me a lot of time to think and reflect. The almost hypnotic repetition of spinning legs. Seemingly drifting through time.

Unlike most forms of transport, bikes are open air. The speed a bike is designed to be comfortably ridden at, is one that allows someone to travel great distances in not a lot of time. However, is slow enough, that it forces the rider to be present and enjoy the journey. Someone will never enjoy the act of riding a bike, if their only focus is on the destination. The point at which the bike ride is over.

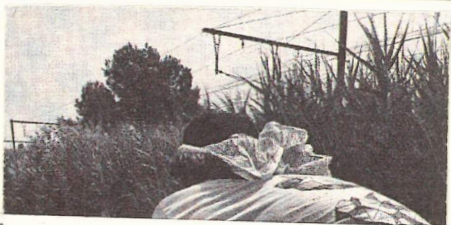


Cycling forces emphasis on the journey, and a connection with your surroundings. Whether those surroundings would be dodging cars in the busy streets of New York. Or cruising along a canal in the Belgium countryside. Lost but loving it. No signal.



I remember, towards the end of the trip, i was hot. tired, smelly and hungry;

I was very over it. I wanted comfort. I wanted a shower. Clean clothes.



I wanted to never sit on a fucking bike seat again.



But then, i started to take in the surroundings.

This thought very quickly snapped me out of my bad mood. I realised that i missed the point of what being on your bike is all about.

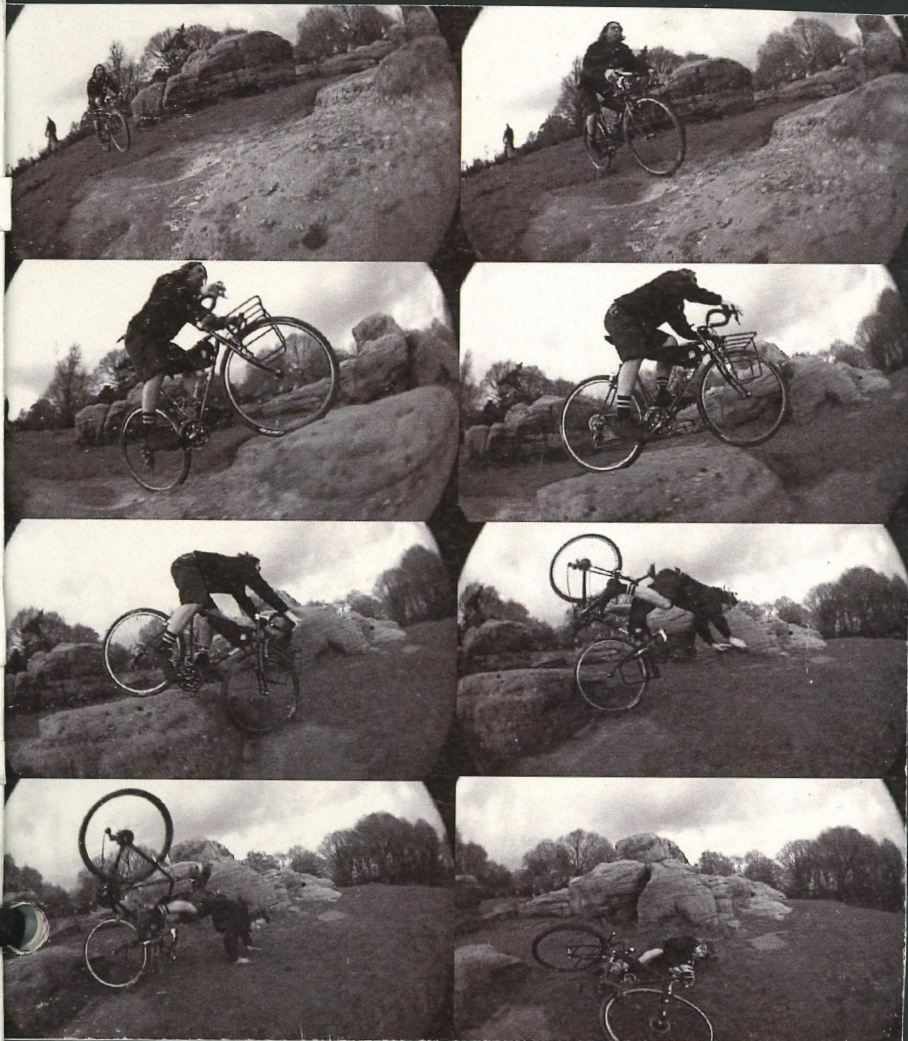
I realised, the beauty of being on a bike, is being forced to live in the moment. That's why i love bikes. You have to be present.

And if you're not...you'll not enjoy it.

Or CRASH!

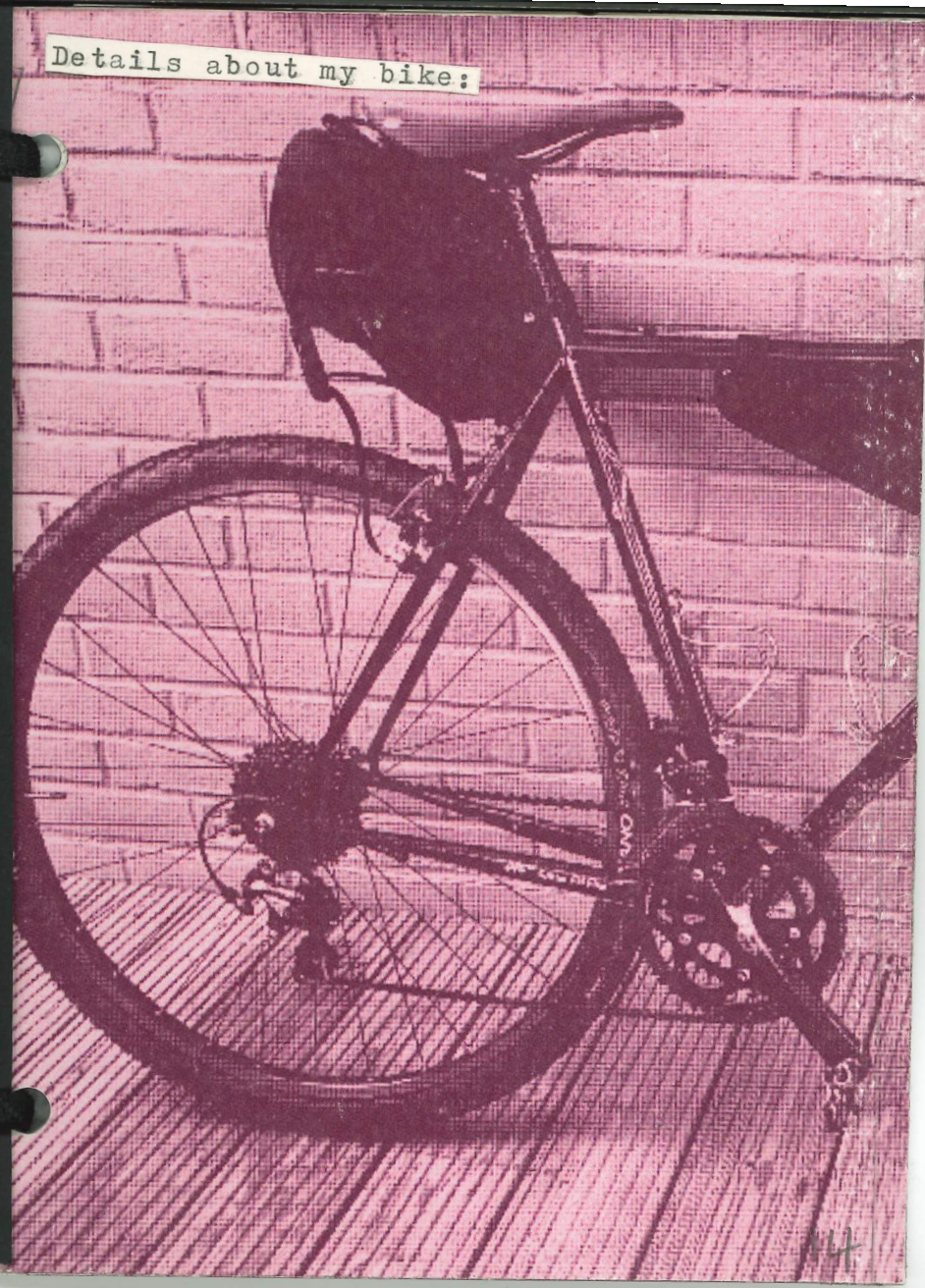
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RIDE / CRASH



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Details about my bike:



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Surly 4130 Chromoly steel.
Double butted main triangle.

Added strength...

Why Surly?

Surly: "there is no such thing as one bike that can do it all, but the crosscheck comes pretty close".

"serious steel bikes for people who don't take themselves

too seriously.

VERSATILITY.

UTILITY.

DURABILITY.

Since then, it's been the

Surly makes functional bikes, that do what they're designed to do. Our bikes are built to last a long time.

Owning a Surly isn't some exclusive club".

I subscribe to Surly's manifesto. Their outlook. Often, people buy these super bikes, costing huge amounts, often for them to collect dust in a shed.

Why? Because they are almost too nice, and too specific to be used. You can't lock them up, as you'd be risking it getting stolen, and the bike is most probably not that comfortable or enjoyable to ride on anything but the smoothest of roads. That to me, isn't cycling. That isn't what a bike is for. That's why I like Surly.

Why steel?

Steel is the strongest and most reliable material available for bikes, at the best price point. Steel frames have been around since 1864, when a French metal worker built the first steel frame bike. This material became available, due to the invention of the Bessemer process, producing cheap steel, in 1850.

leading material choice for

frame builders to use.

Components:

- Shimano 105 group set,
- Ultegra rear derailleur and index shifters. 2 x 11.
- Simworks Panaracer 700x38 tires
- Nitto stem - Thompson seat post
- Brooks C17 saddle
- Nitto Noodle Bar 50cm
- Tektro canti brakes.
- Shimano XT SPD pedals (stolen from my uncle)

Steel forces the tube

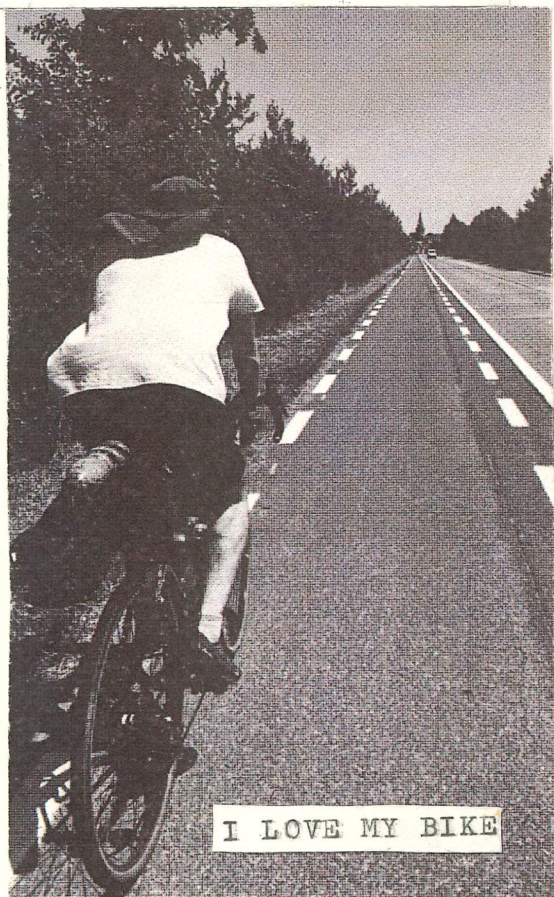
a simple look. O

This often means that cooler branding and instead of gimmicky stuff being better and more

Steel bikes are made

Made to have fun with

I cant drive. Nor do I overy want to learn.
I will learn... one day. But because of thi
Ive always relied on my bike for transport.
A way of escaping. Clearing my head.
Changing my scene . When necessary.
I wouldnt have it any other way



I LOVE MY BIKE

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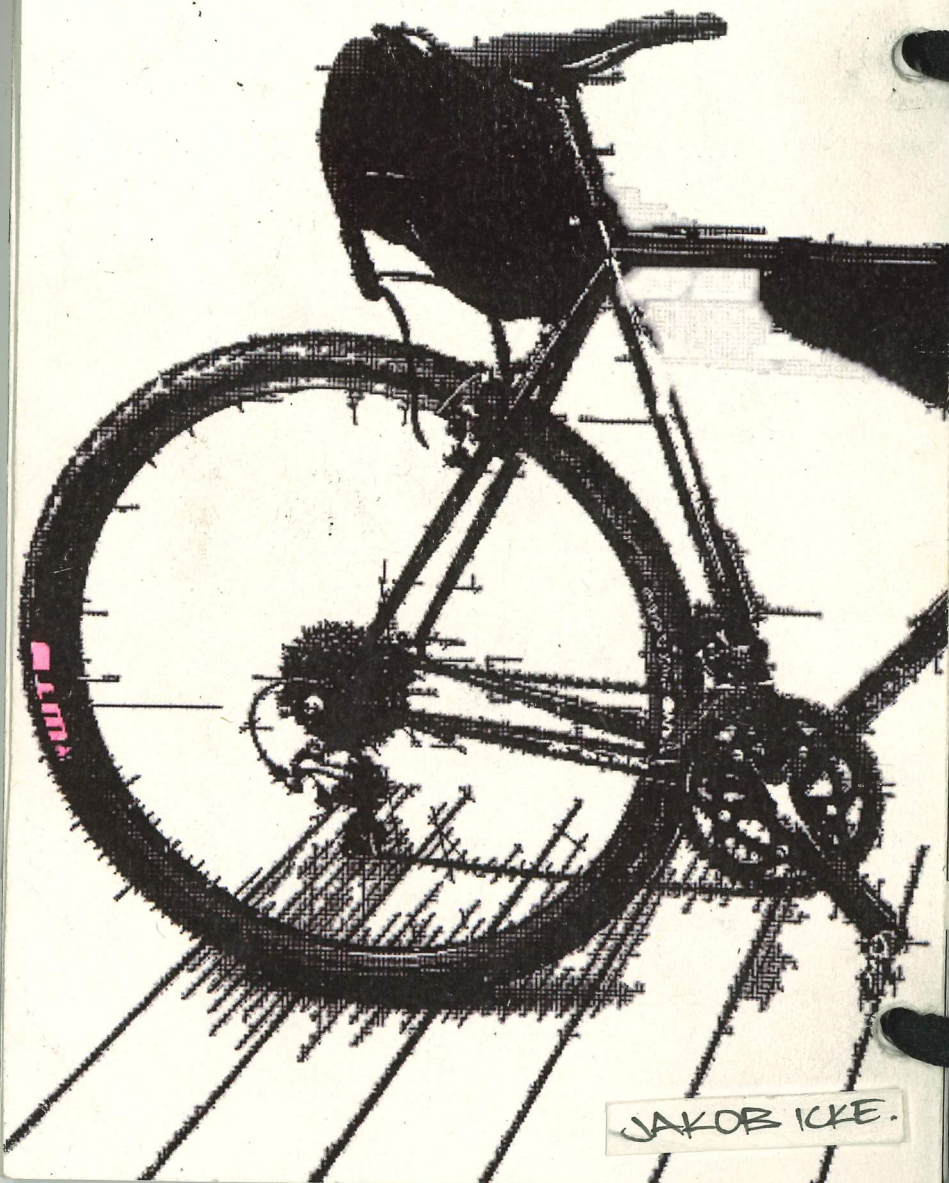
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