

TRAIL

Ibis Mojo SL-R

Price \$7,225 (custom build)

Price Range \$2,500 (frame only) - \$6,680

Weight 24.12 pounds

Final Take A cheater's bike. An awesome blend of climbing and descending prowess that got our mojo rising.

In last year's Bible, the Ibis Mojo HD—the bigger brother of the SL-R—took my vote for the bike I most wanted to take home and roll around in the dirt.

This time it was the SL-R's turn to win the hearts of the entire test team.

The Ibis is so light that it felt like I was pushing an easy gear in a tailwind. The climbing is top-notch—great traction paired with unrivaled efficiency. The Mojo scaled the rocks and roots of our challenging technical test loop like a nitrous-fueled rock crawler. Then when it came to the descents, the bike went through the pock-marked slickrock, roots and rock gardens with the greatest of ease—the suspension flowing as smooth as a Motown bass line.

The Ibis' front end is remarkably flex-free, and the rear end is as stiff as hanging laundry in an Arctic wind. Nor is there discernible bottom-bracket flex, meaning that all power was transferred directly into going forward, while the



suspension was left to do its job unhindered. The suspension and shock tune on the SL-R dance the fine line between compliance and performance. The SL-R felt very sporty throughout its travel, but still generous enough with its plushness to plow through some serious chunder.

In terms of small-bump compliance, the SL-R set the benchmark for all the bikes—nothing else was as smooth and silent. What's more, the Shimano Shadow Plus rear derailleur helped keep

the Ibis nice and quiet; a fine touch on such a beautiful and aesthetically pleasing bike.

This bike is just so capable and inspiring, it easily blurs the lines of bike characterization. The only minor thing keeping it from being absolutely perfect is its lack of water-bottle bosses.

But that's utterly trivial compared to the Ibis' biggest drawback: The fact that it left a gaping hole in our hearts when we were forced to hand it back. **-Seb Kemp**