

Best electric folding bikes reviewed, 2025

Cycling Electric helps you navigate your way to one of the best folding electric bikes



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PUBLISHED: OCTOBER 10, 2024 | LAST UPDATED: OCTOBER 11, 2024

IN BUYER'S GUIDES, E-BIKES, HYBRID, COMMUTER AND FOLDING BIKES

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Living in the city can be demanding, but a neat little mental break from it all could be riding your bike. However, bikes can be cumbersome things and we don't all have the room. The best folding electric bikes are great space savers in the home and allow you to take them on public transport, making great 'last mile' options. If you're looking to commute by e-bike, Cycling Electric has compiled a list of [the best electric bike for commuting](#), but read on if you want our deepest analysis yet of the e-folding bike arena, each with an individual review.

Folding electric bikes might not have the longest range out of all the e-bikes, but that isn't their purpose. Their role is to get you around the city, to or from work from the station or home if you're close enough. Their limitations in terms of range are clear, but that doesn't mean they aren't a sound investment. If you're worried about range Cycling Electric has covered [how to get the most out of your electric bike range](#) and a handy little tool to help you visualise and work out [how far your electric bike's battery will go](#).

If you are not wholly fixed on an electric folding bike but want something city ready, check in with our guide to the [best urban electric bikes](#).

What to look for in the best folding electric bike?

What are we looking for when we review an electric folding bike?

An electric folding bike review is a little different from your average bike test in that how the bike handles and stores when it is packed down is as important as how it performs when it's upright and on two wheels. Therefore, our reviews are taking the following criteria into consideration:

- * Speed of the fold
- * Ease and safety of the fold
- * How the bike handles when folded
- * Weight
- * Price
- * Overall ride quality

Motor

Most, but not all, electric folding bikes will have a rear hub motor. These are compact, and lightweight but still pack 250 watts of continuous power. They generally have a lower torque value compared to other e-bike styles, but will give enough to help on the steepest climbs, in fact, we tend to find these motors do all their work in the hills and a lot less on the flats where you can save battery.

Where a central motor is found, these can pack more of a punch and be better suited for either carrying cargo, or for taking on the steepest of hills.

Batteries

As the development of e-bikes has gone along, as has the development of batteries and frames, each now being built so that batteries are internal and an integral part of the frame. Being housed in this way, the designs of e-bikes are much sleeker, and you may not even notice them at first glance.

Batteries are measured in watt-hours (Wh), and we have a handy tool to help you determine how much range your e-bike has on a single charge. The larger the Wh number, the bigger the battery, and the greater your range. A bigger battery means more weight, which negatively affects range. It's a balancing act and one which you can help yourself.

Brakes

Disc brakes offer superior stopping power over rim brake alternatives. This stopping power is needed as e-bikes are generally heavier than standard road bikes. The best electric road bikes will have hydraulic disc brakes. These allow for better modulation over the brakes and require less power to stop the bike.

Best folding electric bikes

Volt Lite | [Our review](#)



Volt Lite | [£2,899](#)

Spec summary

Motor Bafang M820 mid-motor, 250W, 75Nm

Battery Seatpost battery, 360Wh

Frame Aluminium

Drivetrain Shimano Nexus 3-speed hub gears

Brakes Tektro hydraulic disc

Lights Spanninga hardwired front and rear

Tyres Schwalbe Big Apple, 20 x 2in

Weight 18.9kg including battery, 15.8kg with battery removed

Folded size 91cm x 81cm x 47cm

As one of few electric folding bikes able to call on the additional grunt a mid-drive motor offers compared to the more typical rear hub-based unit, a train trip to hilly Sheffield seemed like a good challenge for Volt's new Lite.

It weighs a touch under 19kg, which is impressively light for a mid-motor folder (the Tern Vektron Q9 on the previous page weighs 23kg) and makes it that bit easier to carry once folded.

The Bafang M820 motor itself only contributes 2.3kg to that total, yet puts out a punchy 75Nm torque. The 360Wh seatpost battery also does its part in keeping the weight in check, although while it looks neat, its integrated nature means you can't carry an extra battery with you.

There's no suspension on board but Schwalbe's wide-profile Big Apple tyres provided a degree of cushioning for some light off-road riding.

Out on the road, a 25km route took in a striking mixture of the scenery that north Sheffield has to offer. The initial section along the Trans Pennine Trail's Five Weirs walk required only easy pedalling in the bottom of the five power settings, and there was plenty of stop-start riding as we made our way across, under and over major road arteries, rivers and canals into the heart of Sheffield.

The torque sensing of the Bafang motor gave immediate response to pedal pressure just when we needed it, which is handy on rides like this that require a fair bit of short-notice manoeuvring.



A true e-bike climbing test followed as we made our way up Clay Wood Bank, followed by more climbing through Norfolk Heritage Park, before a broad track section past the back of Manor Park Tudor Lodge provided a test for the Lite's off-road credentials, which it passed with flying colours.

Thanks to its weight, the Lite was easily transported on local trains. Its short wheelbase meant it often wasn't even necessary to fold it, though doing so is a 30-second operation resulting in a compact 91 x 81 x 47cm package.

At the end of the 30km ride, battery capacity was still at a healthy 70%, which suggests this efficient e-folder could happily take on plenty of hilly climbing over the course of a full day's riding. Throw in the low weight, compact dimensions and decent motor output and you have a folding bike that's ideal for both city adventuring and regular commuting.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the advantages of folding electric bikes over a regular e-bike or traditional bike?

Folding e-bikes offer enhanced portability and convenience. They can be easily folded into a compact size, making them suitable for storage in small spaces, transport in cars or public transportation, and carrying upstairs. The electric assist also makes commuting and riding uphill more effortless.

How do I fold and unfold a folding electric bikes? Is it easy to do?

Folding e-bikes typically come with user-friendly folding mechanisms. Common steps involve releasing latches, hinges, or locks to fold the frame and handlebars. Unfolding is generally just as straightforward. Manufacturers often provide manuals or online videos demonstrating the process, making it easy for users to master.

What's the range and speed of a typical folding e-bike?

The range and speed of folding e-bikes vary based on factors like motor power, battery capacity, terrain, and rider weight. On average, folding e-bikes, like all e-bikes, are limited to 15.5mph in the UK and cover distances of 20-50 miles (32-80 km) on a single charge. More advanced models might offer greater ranges and speeds.

Are electric folding bikes suitable for riders of all heights and sizes?

Folding e-bikes are designed to accommodate a range of rider heights and sizes. However, checking the manufacturer's specifications is essential to ensure a comfortable fit. Some models might offer adjustable seat posts and handlebars, making them adaptable to different riders.

How durable are electric folding bikes, considering the folding mechanisms?

Folding e-bikes are engineered with durability in mind. Reputable manufacturers use sturdy materials and robust folding mechanisms to ensure the bike's structural integrity. Regular maintenance, proper usage, and following the manufacturer's guidelines for folding and unfolding will help extend the bike's lifespan.

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