

## WHYTE G-170 S

£2,399 / 27.5in / [whyte.bike](http://whyte.bike)

It's easy to get swept along by the endless march of progress. The idea that one extra gear, a 10 per cent reduction in fork friction, or the latest tyre size is going to transform your riding experience. It's certainly a compelling narrative, even if the claims are often somewhat exaggerated.

Don't get us wrong, we're all for technical improvements, no matter how small. Because taken together, they are the primary reason why the modern mountain bike is so much better than anything that was produced even five years ago.

And while we're guilty of drilling down to the minutia to find out what really makes a test bike tick, it always comes back to big picture fundamentals like geometry, sizing and suspension dynamics.

One brand that's never lost sight of these key concepts is Whyte, its entry-level G-170 S proving that you don't need the marginal gains of the most expensive finishing kit to make an eye-wateringly fast enduro bike.

With cutting-edge sizing and geometry the G-170 S slices straight through the marketing

BS. OK, so the G-170 still has its fair share of acronyms and initializations, and it's even sporting an on-trend reduced offset fork, the frame geometry designed specifically around it. But it's actually the super-low BB height and painstakingly tuned rear suspension that make the G-170 such a formidable race bike.

It's what puts you "in" rather than "on" the Whyte, and that added sense of security allows you to ride faster and take more chances, without ever feeling like you are in over your head. As such, it may take some time for your current handling limits to catch up with those of the G-170 S.

The build kit is functional rather than fancy, but the G-170 S has got everything you need to get down the hill as fast as possible. It's all part of the winning philosophy of this bike.

It's a bonus too that Whyte's bikes are available through regular bricks and mortar bike shops. So in the age of online retailing, being able to touch it, try different sizes or simply squeeze the brake levers and kick the tyres just adds to its overall appeal.

■ **Issue tested:** January 2018

### WHAT'S NEW FOR 2019

"When it comes to bombing descents, either with an uplift or under your own steam, the G-170 is our bike of choice. And for 2019 we wanted to make it even more capable at doing just that. So we are upping the fork travel to 180mm to help iron out bumps and reduce fatigue. We also shortened the fork offset to give calmer and more confident steering. The final touch was to increase the rear centre measurement to maintain balanced cornering traction from a neutral riding position."

*Sam Shucksmith, Lead Suspension Bike Designer, Whyte Bikes*

