



Bridgestone CB-0

Bridgestone's \$459 CB-0 (say CB-zip) city bike is a practical alternative to using your expensive weekend machine on rough urban streets. Too elegant for the term "beater bike," it's a utility vehicle for those lacking the mechanical skill or dusty box of old parts needed to create a homebuilt commuter.

Despite its 26-inch wheels and low-rise handlebar, this is

no mountain bike. The frame is made of butted Tange chromoly steel tubing in road bike diameters. The relatively steep, 73-degree head tube angle and road-bike frame sizing set it apart from its off-road brethren. It also has 26x1.25-inch, 100-psi Specialized FatBoy slick tires for swift and silent pavement cruising—especially useful with the tall, 48x12-tooth (104-inch) high gear. Twenty-one speed Shimano Hyperglide shifting (with above-bar thumb-shifters) provides a wide range

and instant gear changes for varied terrain and urban stops and starts.

What the CB-0 doesn't have is overly stout construction or expensive high-end parts designed for the rigors of off-road racing. Instead it sports less expensive, functional equivalents that are more than adequate for the bike's intended use. Add fenders and a rack to the frame's braze-on eyelets and you've got the ultimate, ready-made urban assault vehicle.

J.K.