

# Crazy Bicycle Riding Cellist Chick from Down Under

Dear Ebike,

I would like to be considered for the 'Cycle Analyst' giveaway comp.

I'm a Crazy Bicycle Riding Cellist Chick from Australia and I'm about to embark on some pretty serious bicycle riding music tours to promote my new solo album 'The Knife that Cuts a Tear'. I ride a Yuba Mundo Cargo bicycle with my cello strapped to the back rack, massive panniers made from reclaimed canvas (fabricated locally in Castlemaine, VIC by Ron D Swan) containing all my musical equipment (pedals, effects, loop station) and some camping gear, and behind me a custom built Electric Assist Trailer to help me get up those big hills and provide power for some 'Street/Bush Cello' gigs along the way. The trailer, was built by my partner Andy, who's known locally as a 'Bush Mechanic' and 'Artificer'. Andy also rides a Yuba Mundo, which helps him to run his small business, 'Mechanarchy' (Mechanical Chaos), as well as aiding him to carry camping supplies on tour. He's actually built two trailers, one for me and one for himself. With a combined cargo and bicycle weight of nearly 70 kilos each, it was necessary to look at some kind of Electric Assist to help us during some of the tougher parts of the tour. Also, we live car and motorcycle free some 15 k from the nearest town, so bicycle riding is part of our everyday schedule.

The trailers, affectionally known as the 'Watt-Bot', consist of a chassis made out of an old exercise bike and some Aluminium reclaimed from an early project (home made motorcycle trailer). On board is a 24 volt system consisting of a 200 Watt motor, 22 Amp Hour Gel Batteries and a 30 Watt Solar Panel. All this is connected to a wire that runs up the length of the Yuba to the throttle, and there's some stuff in between, (that I don't completely understand), like fuses, speed controller, charger, and old style amp and volt meters (see pic). Andy's even put a couple of 12volt power adapters so we can charge our phones and so I can plug in a small amp and my array of pedals and play/practice some cello along the way.

The big question, does it work, YOU BET YA!. It's like having a tail wind even though you're pushing 70kg, and it's essential up some of those scarily big hills....but you still have to pedal, mainly because we're trying to do some serious k's. So, how would the 'Cycle Analyst' help us, well;

Firstly, I'm not so good at operating the throttle, changing down gears AND watching the amp meter whilst going up hill. I'm always worried I'm going to blow a fuse, which could be disaster with a cello onboard. The 'Cycle Analyst' would mean I could set an amp limit so that I could focus on more important things, like traffic.

Secondly, I'd really like to be able to monitor more accurately how much power the solar

panel is generating and how much power I am using, and more importantly, how many amps I have left. This is really hard to work out and it's a concern when you need to get to a gig. So, the 'Cycle Analyst' would enable me to learn how to use the trailer more efficiently with all the data it collects as well as helping me to manage things 'en route'.

Thirdly, Andy, being a stickler for energy efficiency and equity, will be ever more happy knowing that we are able to get great longevity out of our bodies and our batteries.

Lastly, I think the 'Cycle Analyst' is a wonderful piece of equipment for understanding energy, including how much energy (Watts) we as cyclists are producing, and as such, I'm sure there will be a great many opportunities during our upcoming tours to blog our 'Cycle Analyst' stats for people to follow, and with two Yuba Mundo Cargo bikes, two 'Electric Assist Trailers' with solar panels, and one cello, we invite a fair bit of attention, interest and conversation on tour!

Thanks for your time and for your great thoughtful products (we're also got our eye on 'The Cycle Lumenator' and the 'Freewheel Removal Tool' amongst other items.),

Kind Regards,  
Kristin Rule

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