

## NEW BIKES

# ONZA PAYOFF

£1,599 / 29in / [todayscyclist.co.uk](http://todayscyclist.co.uk)

**Onza's two-wheeled debut is a retro-inspired hardtail with a modern touch**

## NEED TO KNOW

- Classy 4130 cro-mo steel-framed hardtail
- RockShox Revelation fork with 120mm travel
- Wide tyres and 29er wheels give grip and comfort
- Just two sizes, 17 and 19in, limit the Payoff's appeal

**O**nza's been on the mountain bike scene for around 25 years, producing tyres, grips and bars in the 1990s and then trials bikes in the Noughties. It's taken until now, though, for the brand to produce its first mountain bike, the Payoff: a 29er hardtail complete with retro steel tubing that looks straight out of the last century.

Don't be fooled though, the Payoff is like a hipster with a Macbook – trendy, up to date but with retro styling. To start with, the bike has a single-ring drivetrain with no provision for anything as uncool and cluttering as a front mech. Onza uses its own brand narrow-wide 32t chainring, too.

The frame itself is made from good-old-fashioned 4130 cro-mo steel, but it's been electroplated to prevent corrosion. It's sometimes beautiful and sometimes a bit odd looking: the modern tapered head tube



sits at odds with the skinny tubes it butts up against. Then there's the big forged yoke at the confluence of the BB shell and chainstays – it looks like something from the late, great, Fred Dibnah's workshop. But then there are touches of genius too; the sweep of the chainstays around the rear wheel gives loads of tyre clearance, and the curved brace connecting it to the seatstays is neat.

The own-brand Onza controls work fine, the bar shape looks pretty funky but it's wide enough and feels right. Only the overlong stem spoils the party.

The Payoff is a comfortable place to be, thanks to the slim stays and the long, thin seatpost. The oversized Kenda tyres feel bigger than their advertised 2.35in – more like 2.5in, not Plus-sized, but pretty close – and provide a surprising amount of cushioning and grip, even on really muddy tracks. I ran them at just 20psi without the carcasses rolling or suffering a pinch flat. Together with the RockShox Revelation fork, it gives the Payoff a controlled and fun feel. Given the frame's quality, and the fact it can handle the latest 27.5in Plus wheels too, the Payoff would make a great longterm investment... if you can afford its hefty price, and get comfortable aboard it, as there are only two sizes to choose from.

Jamie Darlow

## mbr 1ST IMPRESSION

### HIGHS

Delivers a comfortable and engaging ride.

### LOWS

Expensive, and good luck squeezing a dropper post in.

## SPECIFICATION

**Frame** 4130 cro-mo  
**Fork** RockShox Revelation Solo Air, 120mm  
**Wheels** Weinmann XC180, Kenda Slant Six 29x2.35in tyres  
**Drivetrain** Onza 32t, Shimano SLX Shadow r-mech and shifters  
**Brakes** Shimano BR447  
**Components** Fizik Gobi saddle, Onza alloy bar, stem and seatpost  
**Sizes** 17, 19in  
**Weight** 14.0kg (30.9lb)

## GEOMETRY

**Size** ridden 19in  
**Rider height** 6ft 1in  
**Head angle** 69.1°  
**Seat angle** 73.2°  
**BB height** 308mm  
**Front centre** 704mm  
**Chainstay** 442mm  
**Wheelbase** 1,146mm  
**Top tube** 565mm

