

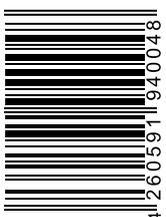


E-MOUNTAINBIKE

THE ANNUAL PRINT EDITION FOR EXPERTS AND BEGINNERS | [EBIKE-MTB.COM](https://www.ebike-mtb.com)



EUR 15 SFR 20
GBP 15 USD 20



New Generation

Light eMTBs, SUV eMTBs,
Cargo bikes, Off-road
Step-through eMTBs

Buyers' Guide

The Best eMTBs
of 2020,
Motor Group Test

Treats and Superpowers

For Families, Dogs and Kids:
Equipment and Inspiration



MERIDA

eONE-SIXTY 10K

The MERIDA eONE-SIXTY is an old acquaintance having secured several E-MOUNTAINBIKE group test victories in recent years. For 2020, it's been redesigned from the ground up, bringing it bang up to date with a strikingly designed carbon frame and integrated battery. Can the new eONE-SIXTY 10K reclaim its place at the top?

The price of the new MERIDA eONE-SIXTY 10K is in its name. The carbon eMTB with its Shimano STEPS E8000 motor is yours for a little less than ten thousand euros (€ 9,799). While the aluminium rear triangle and the FOX Factory suspension of the 160 mm travel bike haven't changed much, most of the innovation can be found in the completely redesigned front triangle. MERIDA uses the new, slimmed-down BT-E8035 internal 504 Wh battery. If you need more range, they've already got you covered: the eONE-SIXTY 10K comes with an EVOX FR TRAIL E-RIDE backpack and a spare battery included. Up front, MERIDA spec a 29" wheel mounted with a super-grippy MAXXIS ASSEGAI tire. Despite being a mullet bike, using a 27.5" wheel at the rear, MERIDA have opted against the use of a fat 2.8" tire, instead going for 2.6" Minion DHR. It inflates to about the same width as

the front tire, but unfortunately, it is only available in the more puncture prone EXO+ casing. Considering the delicate DT Swiss HXC 1200 carbon wheels, this is a dangerous combination for heavy or aggressive riders. In all other details, both the frame details and componentry on the MERIDA eONE-SIXTY 10K have been given a lot of thought, offering the highest quality components that are well suited to the intended application.

With its tall front end and relatively slack seat tube angle, the pedalling position on the eONE-SIXTY is comfortable on flat terrain. However, we'd advise shifting the saddle as far forward as possible for a more balanced pedalling position on steep climbs. Otherwise, you'll have to lean far forwards to keep the front wheel on the ground. Fortunately, the suspension generates a lot of traction and prevents the rear wheel from spinning out, whether you're standing up or leaning forward. Unfortunately, no matter how you adjust the saddle and position yourself on the bike, the MERIDA doesn't climb as well as the best technical climbers in the test field, such as the Orbea WILD FS or Moustache Samedi Trail 27.



Silence is golden

The cable routing, soft battery cover and chainstay protector have been designed to eliminate all noise as you ride - with success!



Upgrade immediately

Heavy or aggressive riders who like to ride fast should immediately replace the rear tire with a thicker, more robust model to protect the carbon rim.



Freedom of movement

With a 170 mm dropper post, long front triangle and low slung top tube, the eONE-SIXTY offers plenty of freedom of movement in all directions.

As soon as the trail starts heading back down, the MERIDA plays in an entirely different league. Its handling is agile, fun, very precise and defined. The new eONE-SIXTY 10K's ability to combine composure and agility is second to none in the test field. The handling is extremely predictable in technical terrain, whether you're going fast or slow. Thanks to the tall front end, you always feel in control on steep descents and the grippy tires and powerful brakes instil you with the confidence to charge through everything. However, the MERIDA is not as well balanced on flat trails, requiring you to weight the front of the bike. Nonetheless, the rear suspension is more than supportive enough. The fork and shock never give up more travel than required and you can quickly generate speed by pumping the eONE-SIXTY through rollers and berms. It gives you a lot of pop over jumps too, making it easy for you to collect frequent flyer miles. Big jumps and drops are just as much fun on this bike as hammering over roots or gliding down flow-trails.

CONCLUSION Anyone looking for razor-sharp handling and maximum performance on the trail will find what they're looking for with the MERIDA eONE-SIXTY 10K. It descends better than the Best in Test Specialized Levo, making it one of the best options for enduro riders, but it can't keep up with the better climbing bikes in the test field. In terms of looks and build quality, the eONE-SIXTY is right there with the best of them.

Motor Shimano Steps E8000, 70 Nm | **Battery** 504 Wh*
Wheel size MX (F: 29", R: 27.5") | **Max. payload** 97 kg
Price € 9,799 | **Size** XS S M L XL | **Weight** 22.16 kg
More info www.merida-bikes.com

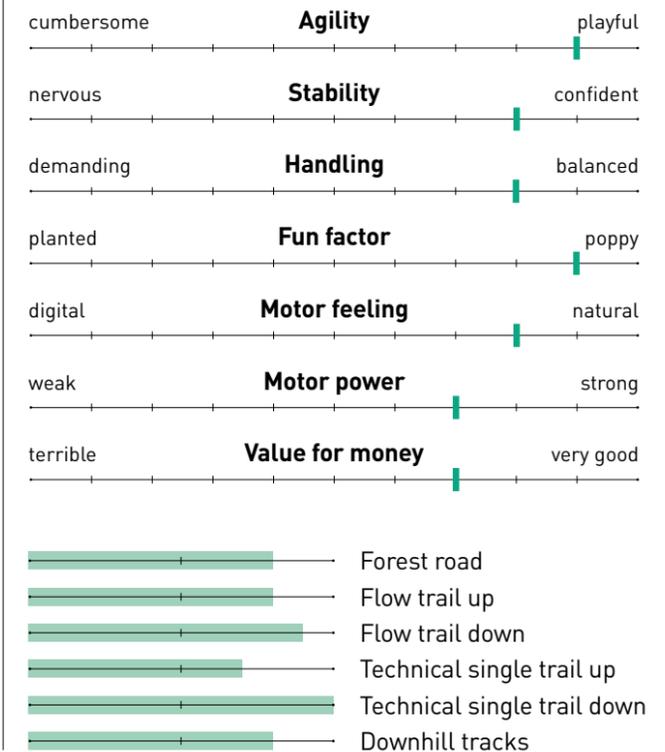
*additional 504 Wh battery included

TOPS

- outstanding descender
- agile yet composed
- super quiet on the descents

FLOPS

- no skid plate
- wheelset too fragile for aggressive use



AFFORDABLE ALTERNATIVES TO THE BIKES IN OUR GROUP TEST

To be honest, not everyone can, or indeed wants, to spend € 11,499 on the Specialized S-Works Turbo Levo, the Best in Test. So here are four exciting and more affordable alternatives that offer a great overall package, a wide range of applications and excellent handling.



Most of the 25 bikes in our group test are at the absolute forefront of eMTB development. These are the flagship models that the brands have on offer, with only the best and finest components, guaranteed to have an instant 'must-have' effect on customers. Of course, they offer the best performance but you don't always have to fork out that much money to get grins on the trail. For this reason, we've compiled a list of four alternative recommendations for those on a tight budget.

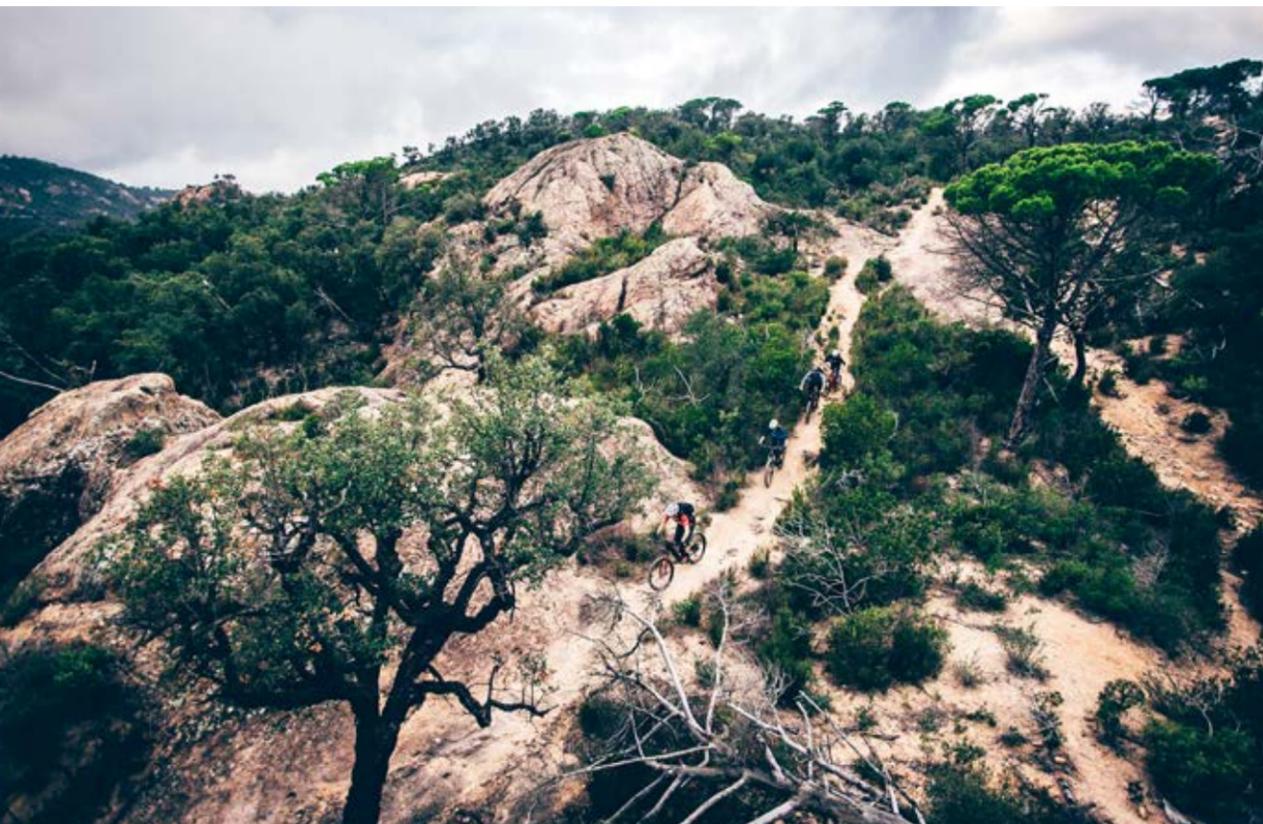
Specialized Turbo Levo Comp

The alternative to the best all-rounder for those with a smaller bank balance

The winner of our big group test is the versatile Specialized S-Works Turbo Levo. It offers outstanding technical features, is suitable for all types of riders and is considered the benchmark in terms of riding fun. But it is also incredibly expensive at € 11,499! The alternative costs over € 5,000 less.

The Specialized Turbo Levo Comp comes with an aluminium frame but it also has a 700 Wh battery, little to criticise regarding spec and is priced at € 6,199: € 5,300 less than the flagship model. The Levo Comp even has one advantage over the S-Works: it comes with aluminium rims. That means you won't immediately write them off if you hit a rock at speed and will usually come away with nothing more than a dent. The aluminium model is specced with SRAM Guide RE brakes and 200 mm rotors. The SRAM GX 11-speed drivetrain is standard on all Levo models. You get a 150 mm dropper post on sizes M and L and suspension is taken care of by a RockShox Deluxe Select+ shock and a RockShox Lyrik Select RC fork. For 2020, Specialized opted against the less stiff PIKE. If you long for even better performance from the fork, you have the option of retrofitting a higher-end damper. The Specialized Turbo Levo Comp is the perfect alternative to the flagship model if you want to save money without sacrificing performance. However, you'll have to learn to live with the increased weight.

More info: [specialized.com](https://www.specialized.com)



MERIDA eONE-SIXTY 8000

The smaller sibling of the razor-sharp eONE-SIXTY 10K

The excellent eONE-SIXTY has been completely revised for 2020. The top-end carbon 10K features a beautifully integrated battery, striking design features and numerous improvements in the details. But even the more affordable alternative doesn't have to hide: the eONE-SIXTY 8000.

The MERIDA eONE-SIXTY 8000 is priced at € 6,199, coming in at € 3,600 less than the flagship model despite having the same carbon frame. It features a 160 mm travel Marzocchi Z1 ebike-specific fork and a 150 mm RockShox Super Deluxe Select+ shock. Shimano SLX brakes with 203 mm rotors provide the necessary stop-

ping power. MERIDA rely on the MX wheel concept with a 29" wheel up front and 27.5" wheel on the rear of all eONE-SIXTY models. Unlike the top-end model, the more affordable versions don't have an additional removable battery. The componentry is rounded off with a Shimano XT derailleur and a 12-speed cassette, a 170 mm dropper post on the size L and a multi-tool under the saddle. Same as on the flagship model, we recommend upgrading the tires with a more robust set if you intend to ride on rough trails.

More info: merida-bikes.com



Orbea WILD FS M20

The performance machine for aggressive eMTB riders

When it comes to speed on man-made trails, technical climbs and descents and airtime, the Orbea WILD FS M-LTD is our testers' favourite bike. If you want an agile yet composed eMTB that thrives at high speed, you should take a closer look at the more reasonably priced but still customisable WILD FS M20!

The Orbea WILD FS M20 costs € 5,999 and comes with FOX Performance suspension offering 160 mm travel, which is easy to set up and performs well. Since the Orbea is aimed primarily at more experienced riders, we recommend upgrading to a FOX FLOAT X2 Factory shock for € 249, which gives you more setup options. The WILD FS M20 comes with a 12-speed SunRace cassette and XT rear derailleur. Stopping is taken care of by a set of powerful Shimano four-piston brakes with SLX brake levers – less bling but good performance nonetheless. The good news is that customising the paint scheme and selecting a 170 mm dropper posts doesn't come with any additional costs across the range. Brilliant! However, the dual battery and fast-charger option for the integrated 630 Wh battery, unlike with the flagship model, is only available at an additional cost. The EXO+ casing of the MAXXIS tires is limited for aggressive trail use, so we recommend you upgrade these to something more robust if you intend to ride hard.

More info: orbea.com

