

**THE
BIG
TEST**

Overall verdict

WINNER VALUE



USE ROAD 4.5

WINNER PERFORMANCE



ZIPP 303 FIRECREST

OVERALL WINNER



ZIPP 303 FIRECREST

THERE ARE tons of different aero wheel designs, most of which are backed up with a whole load of wind tunnel graphs and claims of seconds saved. For this test, though, we've concentrated on the tangible performance benefits of each set. What's interesting is that technological adoption doesn't seem to be linked to price. That makes some of the cheaper wheels here an absolute bargain.

Vision's TriMax TC50 is a great-handling lightweight set if you're running tubular tyres, USE's new 4.5 clinchers really impressed us with their all-round performance for price and the Shimano-Dura Ace C50s excelled over long distances, with a silky road sensation that left our Ironman testers in raptures. Our final showdown came down to a firm favourite and a surprise new challenger, though, with testers logging almost even love for the fast-feeling Syncros RR1.0s and the fat but super-smooth Zipp 303 Firecrests.

When we first rode the RR1.0s on our repeated wheel-swap rides we were confused by how such average looking wheels rode significantly better than other contenders. It's the small design details that create their undeniably effervescent efficient speed feel. However, the proven tough track record and peerless handling of the Zips just gives them the overall nod this time round.

Next month
Autumn running kit