# E -Bike Frame

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## ME3 DMT Seminar

#### Group 1A:

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## Seminar Structure





## 1. Final Product Overview

• *Key design features*

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• *General specs*

## Key Design Features & Specs **Frame**



- *Columbus Omnicrom steel tubing top-tube, inner seat-tube, seat-stays, chain-stays*
- *Mild steel custom tubing head-tube, down-tube, seat-tube*
- *Brazed joints*
- *Designed for riders 5'8" – 6'8"*
- *Weight: 5.8kg*
- *Comfort riding geometry*
- *Suited for urban terrain conditions*

## Key Design Features & Specs



## **Dropouts**

- *12mm OD, 142mm length THRU axle compatibility*
- *Flat mount disc brake callipers compatibility*
- *Total 1.8cm chain tensioning adjustability*

#### 3 Component Design:

- *Custom laser-cut stainless steel black plates*
	- *brazed to main frame*
- *Custom CNC aluminium inserts*
	- *socket head screws – quick adjustment*

## Key Design Features & Specs<br>Brakes



- *Shimano flat mount disc brake calipers*
- *160mm diameter center-lock rotors*

## **Wheels**

- *700cc (622mm) OD, 25mm width, aluminium alloy rims*
- *142mm wide integrated freehub for sprockets*
- *12mm THRU axle*

## Key Design Features & Specs

## **Seats / Seat tube**

• *27.2 mm internal diameter seat tube to be compatible with industry standard seat tubes*

## **Bottom Bracket**

- *68 mm long 40 mm diameter bottom bracket*
	- *Compatible with motor team's torque sensor*



# 2. Design Requirements

- *Initial inter-group PDS*
- *Revised inter-group PDS*

# Revised Inter-group PDS *UK Laws & Regulations*

- *Aged* <sup>14</sup> *or over with e-bikes meeting requirements*
- *EPACs: ''electrically assisted pedal cycles"*
	- *license not required for usage, no need for registration, tax or insurance*

## UK Laws & Regulations What Counts as EPACs?

- *Pedals to propel*
- *Pedal must be in motion for motor assistance*
- *Show either power battery's voltage or maximum speed*
- *Motor max output = 250 W*
- *not able to propel when speed > 15.5 mph*
- *Can have more than 2 wheels (e.g. tricycle)*

## 3.

# Intergroup Project Division

- *Sub-group allocations*
- *Integration with the frame*





- Handlebar
- Front fork
- Headset assembly
- Front disc brakes













## Frame Isolation

*Static loading scenario*



# Frame PDS



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# Frame PDS

#### Important points





# 4. Planned Approach

- *Project roles*
- *Planned timeline*
- *Gantt chart*
- *Collaboration and workflow*

# Project Roles

#### Rohit

*-Project Manager -Design -CAD -Manufacturer communications*

#### Theo

*-Minutes -Document organisation -Finite element analysis -Test liaison*

#### Rohhil

*-Reporting -Material selection -Test development -Document quality control -Intergroup communications*

#### Mingquan

*-Budgeting and finance -Procurement -Literature Research -Testing Iterations*

#### **Zhongtian**

*-Evaluation -Stress Analysis -Formatting*





# 5. Design & Evaluation Phase

- *Conceptual design*
- *Design challenges*
- *Finite element analysis and iterative design*





#### *Research: Inspiration: Concept Sketching:*



## Market Research & Conceptual Design

#### Features:

- *Integrated battery*
- *Integrated motor housing*



#### Problems:

- *Large stress concentrations*
- *Hard to manufacture*

#### Features:

- *Box section downtube*
- *Aluminium alloy construction*
- *Standard bottom bracket*

# V1.2



• *Top tube intersection unnecessary*



*V1 critical layout dimensions*

#### Features:

- *Main tubes are stocked parts*
- *27.2mm seatpost*



#### Problems:

- *Chainstays expensive to manufacture*
- *No bridge support between stays*

#### Features:

- *All tubes (including stays) are stocked parts*
- *Bridges between stays to support lateral pedalling loads*



#### Problems:

- *Seatstay will buckle under nominal loads*
- *Motor mounting solution lacking*
- *Track dropouts:*
	- *No support for disc brakes*
- *Aluminium: hard to work with*

#### Features:

- *Custom geometry*
- *Sliding dropouts*
- *Disc brakes*
- *Plated mounting tabs*
- *Omnicrom steel Columbus tubing*

#### Problems:

*V*

2622.0mm

- *Mounting tabs are hard to weld*
- *Bolted joining is not preferred*

V2 critical layout dimensions (BikeCAD)



# Initial Stress Evaluation based on script

Method:

- *Assumed the components to be 2D truss elements*
- *Derived stiffness matrix*



## Initial Stress Evaluation (based on script)



- *The FEAA method is implemented by the code in MATLAB*
- *Several advantages throughout the conceptual design stage*





## Dropouts

- Analysed separately to the frame, found to have a minimum safety factor of 4.3 (above the PDS value of 3; screenshot b)
- Initially designed to be produced entirely by CNC
- Redesign for manufacturability made into laser -cut components which were produced individually then joined to give the required shape. (Screenshots c & d)
- Final component shown in Screenshot (a).
- Dropout redesign lowered total cost by  $\sim$  3 times.



#### atudy name: Bukq Ioad(-Default-) 'ot type: Static nodal stress Stress1

## Finite Element Analysis

- SF predicted to be high in this load case, so strong with the rider on the bike.
- Max stress predicted at dropout joint, stress concentration due to weld path and cut in tubing.
- Linear trends expected in all data sets with mass (one graph for example)
- Low strains imply little deformation expected in the frame





## FEA: Stress concentration sites

- Screenshots show left seatstay above dropout with cut and increased areas of strain.
- Both this and a site on the chainstay were considered as they had higher stresses (therefore higher strain values).
- The top screenshot shows the low safety factor (due to a stress concentration) at the cut in the seatstay .



# 6. Budgeting and Manufacturing

- *Manufacturers*
- *Financing*

# Budgeting

- *Over £1000 quickly, extra funding application needed*
- *Mainly spent on tubing and self-designed parts (axle, insert, dropouts)*
- *Final approved budget was £2834.89 including testing costs and shipping*

## Expenditure Distribution



# Detailed Budgeting



## Outsourcing Frame Manufacturing





## • *Over 40 workshop & contractors contacted*

- *most do not have the ability or time to weld/braze the bike frame*
- *Bicycle Academy chosen as manufacturer*
	- *professional industrygrade bike frame fabricator*

# How we cut down the budget?

- *Reduced testing to only static loading*
- *Avoid painting as strain gauges need to be put onto the frame*
- *Dropout: CNC to laser-cut, less complex shape*

## Manufacturing Timeline



# Manufacturing Timeline



# 7. Testing

- *Test set-up*
- *Results*

# Test Development

## Iteration 1 - British Standards





- *Fatigue (Horizontal and Vertical Forces)*
- *Impact*

## **Issues**

- *Long duration*
- *Resource Heavy*

Drawings from British Standard BS EN 15194:2017, BSI (2017) [3]

Available from : https://bsolbsigroup-

com.iclibezp1.cc.ic.ac.uk/Biblio graphic/BibliographicInfoData/ 000000000030384746

# Test Development

## Iteration 2 – Self Developed

Test 1: Chain stay and Dropout Fatigue



**Test 2: Box Section Seat Tube Buckling** 



**Test 4: Top Tube Impact Fracture** 





Test 5: Down Tube Brazed Joint Pedalling Fatigue

 $\pi$ 



#### **Issues**

- *Long duration*
- *Unavailability of test rigs*

# Test specification



- *Masses were applied in 20 kg increments from 0 kg to 60 kg then in 5 kg increments from 60 kg to 100 kg*
- *Design weight is 80 kg so this is exceeded to test the strength of the frame*

# Test specification



- *Sites chosen for strain gauges*
	- *dropout join at chainstay and seatstay (identified as stress concentration area by FEA) and down tube, top tube for reference and comparison at relatively un-stressed areas*
- *6 strain gauges used; one broke during soldering (chainstay hoop orientation)*
- *Strain is measured to avoid excessive deformation and compare with FEA predictions*
- *Advisory limiting values provided to avoid deformation*



# Test setup



*Yellow dots show strain gauge sites.*

- Set up in a bike stand for support with masses suspended from hangers via a bar attached to the saddle.
- Strain gauges connected to Madaq 16 and data recorded at each load.
- Voltage data shown by Madaq, so strains could not be compared during test



# Test setup

- Not painted to avoid interference with strain gauge adhesion.
- Progressed up to 85 kg until the stand began to deform the bike did not, and experienced no damage or wear.





• At 40 kg, the bar supplied from the stores bent significantly so a new one was sourced.



## Results

- Linear trends broadly observed across data, as expected, although magnitudes differ to FEA.
- Likely due to strain gauges being applied by less experienced GTA.
- Validates FEA as trends are as predicted.



Average strain vs Mass, all components

Strain vs mass predictions - all components (RMS)



- Relative sizes of strain values in each component could be improved by higher-resolution FEA.
- Strains also seem very high in test data; did not correspond to the low level of deformation in the frame.
- Measurements in V rather than mV, noise in software.

## Results – Raw Strain Data



Voltage readings converted into strain values using a similar method to fairground lab;

56 *Strain* =  $\frac{4 \times voltage \text{ reading at gauge}}{Bridge \text{ voltage} \times gauge \text{ factor}}$ . Equation from National Instruments Application Note on strain gauges, 1998. [4]

# Results – Transfer Strain to Stress



• The stresses would have caused the frame to fail if they occurred in testing

# Results – Confidence Interval for the data

Small size of data but with large fluctuations so the average value might not be very accurate

The 95% Confidence interval method is used to indicate the range that the true value of measurement mostly likely falls in, useful to estimate the magnitude of stresses



# 8. Future Considerations

- *Improvements*
- *What could have been better?*

# Future design progression

## Short term:

- *Painting*
- *Change dropouts (next slide)*

## Long term:

• *Lighter with more budget*

• *Additional integration with other groups*

• *Re-dimensioning parts for greater strength during manufacturing*

• *More specialised materials (eg carbon fibre)*

Max: 2.087e +08

## ▲ Pre-test analysis

• *Von-misses stress*  safety factor ≈ 1.1



## Dropouts - Stays Interface Problems

- *Too many stress raisers*
- *Complex cuts required*
- *Low weld joint strength*

## Redesign for the future

#### **Current Dropouts** Problems

#### Problems:

- *Stress raisers*
- *Complex assembly*
- *Unique components*





## Redesigned Dropouts

## References

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- 2. Ulrich Hansen. (2020). Finite Element Analysis and Applications Lecture Notes. *Mechanical Engineering Department, Imperial College London.*
- 3. BSI, (2017). BS EN 15194:2017 *Cycles – Electrically power-assisted cycles - EPAC bicycles*, *BSI Standards Publication.* Available from : https://bsol-bsigroupcom.iclibezp1.cc.ic.ac.uk/Bibliographic/BibliographicInfoData/000000000030384746
- 4. Strain Gauges and Wheatstone Bridge Measurements.pdf. Blackboard.com, adapted from Measuring Strain with Strain Gauges. *National Instruments Application Note (1998)*. p78.

## Thank you for watching!

Any questions?