

JOKE

IT'S ALL ELECTRIC NOW ... THE 1200 WATT BICYLCE

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There has been so much progress with electric motors and high capacity batteries finally reaching widespread use. There are kayaks with an electric support ([Torqeed](#) here in Starnberg, that I wished to have one yesterday at Ammersee). There are engines for ultra-light planes like the [Electraflyer](#) while I just read at [science.slashdot](#) about an electric airplane.

The most fascinating piece, however, I have seen last Sunday at bike expo here in Munich is a 1200 Watt kit that can be mounted on most frames of current MTBs. That's a lot of savings compared to buying a [custom built e-bike](#) like the KTM eGnition, Elmoto, eRockit, Grace or eSpire that all come at weights of 25-35 kg.

The kit will be sold by the next month by [ego-kits.com](#) while here are two pictures from the Munich fair.





The performance data are quite impressive:

1000 m of vertical climbing (3280 ft.)

70 km/h v_{max} (43 mph) without speed limiter

Up to 40 km travel (25 miles)

1.5h charging time

masters up to 80% incline with practice (!)

nominal power 1200 W, 2500 W maximum

motor weight 3.2 kg (7.05 lbs), with battery in backpack about 5.5 kg (12.12 lbs)

I like the central and downsize position of the motor with low center of gravity. There is also no force to the suspension. While I expect some heavy wear on chain / sprocket, this needs to be tested in long-term experiments. So far, the combination with a Rohloff Speedhub hasn't been tested while I don't see any problem as this is been in use by the [eSpire](#) for some time. Sound emission seems to be acceptable but expect no silent move.

Unfortunately, the ego kit aren't allowed on German streets, but that may change in the next year. At least the auto lobby already launched reports [how dangerous electric bicycles](#) are ...

