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There's plenty of old frames out there that are well worth a bit of TLC, and Genetic's 1" Cranium headset is ideal for reuniting an old frame and fork. No bells or whistles: just a decent quality, simple threaded headset for not much money.

What do you get for your tenner? Alloy cups, steel bearing surfaces, caged bearings, O-ring seals and a chromed locknut. Ours was a perfect fit in the frame whereas the fork crown needed a bit of preparation to accept the lower race. Once it was all put together - with a big helping of grease - the fork felt solidly attached and buttery smooth. Several hundred miles later, nothing's changed. I took the fork out to see if there'd been any water ingress but everything was still absolutely dry.

A well-greased, well adjusted headset should last for ages and this Genetic unit is no exception, so it's a bargain. Okay it's not quite as swanky or svelte as some of the other remaining options for mounting a 1" threaded fork, but it'll give you years of trouble-free steering for pocket money. And it looks just right on an older frame.

Verdict

Good quality, great value headset for older frames

road.cc test report

Make and model: Genetic Cranium 1 inch headset

Size tested: 1 inch

Tell us what the product is for, and who it's aimed at. What do the manufacturers say about it? How does that compare to your own feelings about it?

It's a replacement headset for older 1" threaded forks and it does the job just dandy.

Tell us some more about the technical aspects of the product? Genetic Cranium Headset.

High quality classic style 1' threaded headset for use on

1' ITA standard frames. Polished Alloy cups with steel runners, caged bearings

and O-ring waterseals. Chrome plated locknut.

22.2x30x26.4mm.

Rate the product for quality of construction:

7/10

Well made without being outstanding

Rate the product for performance:

9/10

No problems at all. You could uncage the balls and add an extra couple for a bit more longevity if you wanted.

Rate the product for durability:

9/10 Lasting very well with no water ingress

Rate the product for weight, if applicable:

7/10

Rate the product for value: 9/10

You're paying peanuts for a perfectly functional component

Tell us how the product performed overall when used for its designed purpose Excellently

Tell us what you particularly liked about the product Looks, price, function

Tell us what you particularly disliked about the product The crown race was super tight on my fork

Did you enjoy using the product? Yes, inasmuch as you can enjoy using a

Would you consider buying the product? Yes Would you recommend the product to a friend? Yes

Overall rating: 9/10

About the tester

Age: 38 Height: 190cm Weight: 98kg I usually ride: whatever I'm testing... My best bike is: Genesis Equilibrium

with SRAM Apex

I've been riding for: 10-20 years I ride: Every day I would class myself as:

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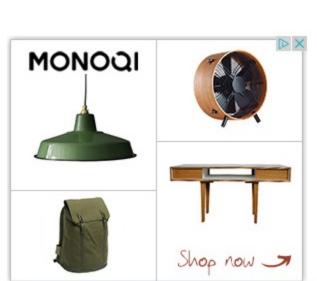
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**** Perfect **** Exceptional *** Very good **** Good *** Quite good *** Okay **** Not so good **** Poor **** Bad **** Appalling

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