

# Pinkbike Product Picks



## Renthal 40mm Duo Stem

Renthal's Duo stems are unique in that the main body of the stem is manufactured in two pieces. By splitting the stem vertically in this manner, they can machine the interior of the stem to a greater degree than is possible with a standard, front-loading design. The results are compelling, the 40mm Duo stem weighs just 124g, but is strong and stiff enough for whatever abuse you might want to put it through. Renthal also claim that the design and shape of the clamping area puts less stress on your handlebar. Until now they were solely available in a 50mm length, but with the rising popularity of big-wheeled bikes and long front-centers, they have produced a 40mm version, with a ten-degree rise. It is only available in a 31.8mm clamp, as Renthal don't see the need for 35mm diameter bars. They feel their bars are already strong enough and while some companies can decrease the handlebar weight with the larger diameter clamp area, there is a corresponding increase in stem weight that is often overlooked. MSRP: \$99.95 USD.

[Renthal](#)



Tech aside, we love how the Renthal stems look and somehow they seem to look good on any bike.

## Pinkbike's Take:



There are two main groups of riders that this stem will likely appeal to, riders who are looking to run a longer top tube to increase the wheelbase, or riders with bigger-wheeled bikes who want to sharpen their steering. We ended up falling into both of these categories, running it on a bigger-wheeled bike with a longer top tube. In terms of handling, the difference between a 40mm and a 50mm stem is small, but if you follow the logic that a 650B bike is slightly slower handling than a 26" bike, that small difference is enough to make the bike feel sharper. In terms of quality, we simply cannot fault Renthal Duo stems, we have had them in circulation on test bikes and personal bikes since 2011 and haven't had any issues. We do sometimes see reports that people having creaking from their stem, but that is an installation issue and tightening the bolts further fixes it in our experience, although you'll want to be sure not to exceed the recommended torque spec. Greasing the bolt threads should also help to silence any noise. To sum the stem up, it is light, stiff, we love the way it looks, and for a top-end, UK-made stem, the pricing is sensible for this kind of quality. - **Matt Wragg**