

RENTHAL ULTRA TACKY GRIPS

£24.99

SPECIFICATION Weight: 113g • Black only • Contact: ison-distribution.com

I don't wear gloves, so I'm constantly looking for a grip that works well when it's both wet and muddy in winter and hot and sweaty in summer... and I think I've just found it.

Renthal's new Ultra Tacky lock-on is made from a special rubber that provides an almost adhesive grip surface — it's so tacky that your hands are almost stuck to the handlebars. An added benefit of this softer rubber is there's more give in the surface, so more cushioning. It also compresses more, which makes it thinner when riding. The rubber does lose some of its stickiness as it gets dirty or dusty, but to re-activate the rubber all you have to do is wash it with clean water.

The grip features twin aluminium collars, but unlike an ODI Lock-On grip, which is made of separate and replaceable components, the clamps on the Ultra Tacky are fixed permanently to the central core. There's no movement between the clamps and the cartridge (the

centre part), but once the rubber is worn out you do have to throw the whole lot away.

The grip surface gets a diamond knurl pattern, and there's an even transition from the rubber to the clamps. I like the fact that all the bolts face backwards — they're easier to tighten — and snap-fit end caps stop dirt plugging the bar.

If you've ever used Maxxis Super Tacky tyres, you'll know soft rubber wears out quickly, and after two months the Renthals are already sporting a few nicks and cuts. That said, I'm happy to take a hit on durability for the increase in traction and feel. If you ride gloveless, these are the best out there.

Paul Burwell

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