

On the first day of Christmas
my true love gave to me a
Howies Merino Henley...

"One present for me, one for the bike..."

There's no point in flogging your wheels over hill and dale with nothing to look forward to at the end of it. Line up carrots like a super nice Merino sweater from Howies for post-ride snuggling and a fresh batch of Sock Guy software to help return you to humanity after a day's sludge surfing.

If you've been at it all winter long then a brand new chamois can't be beaten come Christmas morning; if you don't want to splurge then DHB's Merston bibs are great value. THE's shoe dryers sound dreadfully dull on paper but work like magic – pulling on wet shoes first thing is guaranteed to make you feel awful so it's definitely a treat that's worth it.

Don't forget to treat the bike, too; keep it clean with and Pedros' truly invaluable brush kit. Then treat it to a collar and cuffs upgrade with matching saddle and grips from Ragley, or a splash of colour from Race Face – which has turned out a limited edition Deus XC set of bars in a thoroughly festive and warming red.

IN THE PICTURE

- 1 24Solo DVD £15 (approx) www.grippedstore.com
- 2 Howies Merino Yurt £120 www.howies.co.uk
- 3 Ragley grips £15; Ragley saddle £TBC www.ragleybikes.com
- 4 Sock Guy socks £10 www.silverfish-uk.com
- 5 THE shoe driers £25 www.silverfish-uk.com
- 6 Pedros Pro brush kit £23 www.2pure.co.uk
- 7 Howies Merino Henley £70 www.howies.co.uk
- 8 Race Face Deus XC limited edition red £60 www.silverfish-uk.com
- 9 DHB Merston bib knickers £45 www.wiggle.com