Niner RLT 9 – A New Breakthrough

BY ALEX ROBERTS ON OCTOBER 21, 2015

Niner has updated both the RLT 9 and RLT 9 Steel. Starting with such solid bikes, it would have been easy for Niner to rest on their laurels and leave those bikes as is. Add a new paint scheme and call it “new.” But that’s not Niner. They have updated both the alloy RLT 9 and the RLT 9 Steel to make them even better adventure machines. The alloy gets a 142×12 rear thru axle and both receive a new fork. The fork has a 15mm thru axle and has rack attachments. See below for even more details, and browse here to check out my long-term review of the Niner RLT 9 Steel.

As our daily lives grow increasingly hectic, more and more people are looking for adventure outside the beltway, and the RLT is all about taking a broader approach to road riding and seeking the Road Less Traveled.
The RLT 9 blurs the distinctions between road and off-road riding, finding its niche instead in the undefined world of the all-rounder. With a low bottom bracket it hugs the ground like a road bike, but with disc brakes, a longer wheelbase and clearance for bigger tires, it confidently goes where others cannot.

If what you seek is an all terrain road bike that pairs the wonder of exploration with the responsive ride of a race bike, then the RLT 9 is your match. The light yet robust aluminum alloy tubing provides the ideal platform to turn power into speed. It will never shy away from the race day challenges of a gravel grinder or an occasional cyclocross crusade, and will deliver you across the line with the spirited ride of a winning thoroughbred.

While other frame materials fall in and out of favor, steel stands the test of time. The classic comfort and traditional mystique of steel begs for the romance of the road, and the new road is the old road, a dusty unmaintained byway that time forgot. The RLT 9 Steel is equipped to savor this experience, easily mounting panniers and racks for camping while taking direction only from your lust for adventure. It seeks the purity that once was cycling and asks only that you stay your own course. The RLT 9 Steel will follow your lead.
Whichever you may choose to suit your own sense of adventure, the RLT 9 will steadfastly support you in all your endeavors. Inspired by the notion that not all who wander are lost, and built to you wherever your whim might take you, the RLT sets no boundaries. Instead, it asks you to find your Road Less Traveled.

**DESIGN**

Designed with durability and comfort in mind, the RLT's frame is built with specific tube shapes and features. By hydroforming the tubes, we can create shapes that encourage compliance in one plane while maintaining stiffness in another. A forged proprietary through axle dropout enhances pedaling efficiency and handling while also providing exacting disc alignment to the chainstay, post mounted brake caliper. The seat tube is sized for a 27.2mm seatpost, to further take the edge off rough road feedback, especially when used with our ultra-compliant RDO Seatpost.

**NINER CARBON FORK**
The RLT of course makes use of our world-renowned carbon forks. Built to stand up to the abuses of offroad riding, the RLT fork is likewise equipped for through axle use for the ultimate in steering precision, but it’s carbon layup is refined to quiet the high frequency chatter more likely encountered by the rough road and unpaved rider.