

Power assist

Gruber Assist ▷

An interesting start-up company, Gruber Assist, were showing a very clever retro-fittable electric assist system. The idea is that a small motor simply slides down the seatpost, and engages with a bevel gear fitted to the bottom bracket axle. It's a lightweight system, at under 900 g plus battery, and apparently offers around a 100 W power boost – rather less than some hub systems, but still useful. Once fitted, the electric assist is practically invisible, as you can stash the battery in any convenient bag.

You do need a straight seatpost with an internal diameter of at least 31.6 mm, and pointing straight at the bottom bracket, but many bikes should fit those criteria. The retro-fit does need to be carried out 'by a specialist dealer', as a certain amount of frame modification is involved...

Gruber can also supply complete bikes,



and are also talking to other manufacturers about integrating or licensing their system for use in other brands.

See: www.gruberassist.com