

YiPsan 650B

Price (frame only): \$1,600

Weight (frame only): 4.8 lbs

[www.YiPsanBicycles.com](http://www.YiPsanBicycles.com)

Stephen Eginore

## yipsan bicycles 650B custom

Located in Fort Collins, Colo., YiPsan Bicycles is home to Renold Yip and his handcrafted beauties. The name of his company, YiPsan, rhymes with Mr. Yip in Cantonese, his native language. Born and raised in Hong Kong, he earned his engineering degree in Britain before setting up shop in Colorado.

Prior to building bicycles, Yip spent time working in bike shops and honing his custom bike fitting skills. This background is leveraged when building custom bikes for his customers. Yip focuses on the rider's body geometry, fit specifics and intended application. Having three wheel sizes to choose from allows him to build the best-fitting bike for the rider and his riding style.

The 650B singlespeed hardtail with rigid fork and On-one Mary bars would prove to be a new experience for me. The bike was painted a matte black with subtle speckle paint accents on the top tube and down tube. The 29er suspension adjusted rigid fork provides for many options when considering a front suspension upgrade. Yip feels strongly about offering his customers more choices on front suspension than is currently available in the 650B market. By using this geometry his customers can elect to put on their favorite 29er fork.

This decision heavily influences the ride of the bike. I felt taller on this bike than I expected, and the Mary bars put me in a ride position that I had not experienced before. I did find that I adjusted quickly to the radically swept-back bars. Being a fully rigid setup, response from the pedals was instantaneous, while

the steel tubing flexed enough to take the edge off. Still it was important to select smooth lines when possible.

We have a local riding area called Phil's World in Cortez, Colo. The trails are smooth and twisty with a super fun whoop-de-doo section, known as the Rib Cage. This is where this bike came into its own and all the elements of the rigid frame and upright position worked best. The 650B wheel size helped to smooth out the ride and rolled well over obstacles.

Custom-built bikes are such a pleasure to own. You get to specify all that you are looking for in a bike and then paint it in a color that makes you heart soar. This can lead to long sessions of just staring at your bike and admiring its lines and clean welds.

This is definitely the case with YiPsan Bicycles, and Yip's star is on the rise. He is the recent winner of two awards at the 2010 North American Handmade Bicycle Show. Yip was bestowed with honors for the "Best City Bicycle" and the "People's Choice Award."

Yip's frames feature a distinctive logo with a circle and square. The circle contains a stylized version of his name, Yip, since it is common for the Chinese to put their names on works of art they are proud of. The square simulates an approval stamp used by the ancient kings and the meaning of the four Chinese words is "handmade in steel." Yip should be proud to have his name grace these bikes. We riders are now the kings, and like kings of the past, I am happy to provide my stamp of approval for Yip's bikes. —K. Smith

# 650B

YiPsan's rigid 650B bike is unique and classically attractive.



Brian Riepe

Fillet brazed joints give the YiPsan 650B singlespeed beautiful, smooth welds and a refined look.



Brian Riepe