

HEAD TO
HEAD



Banish dropped chains with either of these new guides, but which one comes out on top?

MRP SXg guide

£140

MRP's latest guide has a pretty interesting design. In addition to the Nylon upper box-guide and lower skid plate, the 'Whippersnapper' lower guide is claimed to keep the chain on track through really rough sections without the added drag and wear associated with a jockey wheel. Fitting was pretty straightforward, although clearance was tight with our Kona Process 111, it worked well regardless and fitted other test bikes fine. The nylon upper and lower guides silence chain slap remarkably well, offering piece of mind when pedalling through the chop.

While narrow-wide rings and clutch derailleurs have made chain-drops rare, the extra security of a lower guide allows you to run a lighter clutch for better suspension sensitivity. Unsurprisingly, we had zero issues with chain derailment despite our best efforts; the skid plate shrugged off several grinding skelps, and both upper and lower guides accommodate the full gearing range without rub. It's not cheap and may be overkill for some, but our 30-34t version (there's also a 34-38t option) weighs a reasonably respectable 159g including hardware, and offers drag-free, DH-ready retention.

www.ison-distribution.com



Possible overkill, but the ultimate in drag-free, slap-silencing security