

# 2009 GENESIS CORE 00

CONTACT [www.genesisbikes.co.uk](http://www.genesisbikes.co.uk)

SRP £499

WEIGHT 30.8 lbs

**G**enesis is the upmarket arm of British bike company Ridgeback. Ridgeback were one of the first mountain bikes available in the UK and have a strong and long history, in fact they are still designed today by one of the original founders. Genesis are predominantly sold here in the UK so they specced for British riding conditions with generous mud clearances and because they are part of the company that distributes Shimano parts, Genesis bikes are normally very highly specified for the budget.

## FRAME AND FORKS

This is the frame that caused most interest from those who spied the test fleet. It's got a lot going on, the aluminium tube shapes are unique, smaller diameter than the rest of the bikes on test with intricate shaping of the tubes to retain strength and stiffness. The welding is the best of the bunch, it's flawless, really well crafted and the seatstays join at the top making a innovative look and it provides bags of tyre clearance.

Dropouts are machined, very minimalist saving the weight where it's not required. Finish is very impressive too, lovely quality paint in matt battleship grey. Forks are the Suntour XCR that we've already mentioned on the Scott and the Mongoose, no remote lockout this time though.

## COMPONENTS AND WHEELS

We'll start with the wheels this time, the Genesis has quality Shimano hubs front and rear, built onto Alex rims with stainless steel spokes. Tyres are the most expensive on test, they are excellent Continental Mountain King 2.2's, the widest on test and are great for UK conditions. This is the only bike on test with full



Shimano parts, the Scott comes close but the Genesis uses a Shimano chain and front hub, even the cables are Shimano.

Component highlights are the chainset, it's the same Shimano one fitted to the Scott but this is upgraded to the Octalink bottom bracket system with oversized splined axle eliminating any flex. The gears are Shimano Deore rear derailleurs, Alivio shifters and front derailleurs, all slick as we've already commented on the other bikes. The home branded parts are neither better nor worse than the own branded components on the other bikes but they all have different shapes and finishes. The saddle however is nice, sleek and comfy with abrasion resistant sides for when you inevitably crash into the brambles.

## RIDE

If we disregard the cost of these bikes and just focus on the ride, the Genesis scores very highly. It's got the most 'planted' feel due to the wide and high quality tyres, complimented by the 'floaty' feel of the frame. It's stiff but not too stiff, it absorbs the trail very well. The forks are as expected at this price but the components are first class.

## VERDICT

We loved this bike, it was the one that the testers were squabbling over. The only upgrade to make a couple of years down the line would be a premium fork with adjustable damping but out of the box this is an awesome bike and also a bit more exclusive than some of the bigger brands.

**PERFORMANCE 9/10**

**VALUE 8/10**



# Dirt Virgins

mountain bike test

