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*If you have had your head buried firmly in your *helmet* for the last few months, you may not have heard of the chain device from [e.thirteen](#). Even if you get out a bit, you may not have had an up close and personal gander. That's were our e13 review comes in!*

by **Phil** on 15/07/2004.

It's hard to review a chain device without mentioning the MRP. They are what I have been running for the last three years, in various different guises and on various bikes. It was the one to have and the market leader. Now, the ubiquitous MRP looks like it might have finally had it's day as the Daddy of chain devices. Not that the product is by any means poor - far from it - but for years this has been the only decent choice in the chain retention stakes.

Now there is a new kid on the block (or chainring - groan) in the form of e.thirteen's device. You don't need to be a kit freak to have spotted the e.thirteen's taking over the show. They were on most stands at Interbike and the new Iron Horse DH bikes ship with them as standard, as well as featuring on YETI Europe's DH, 4X and BSX rigs. We only run class...

So what's new? Well, it works in a similar way to most (other) plated devices but there are some 'enhancements'. The first thing to hit you is the huge outer plate. Super thick, this bad boy is designed to take the knocks, allegedly coming from a need for the 'Shore' riders out there to have a bash guard. The plastic construction means no more bent outer plates hampering your run - this thing is nails. If you do lace it into something, it's more likely to absorb the impact than deform.

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Shroud - Pro

£15.00



The setup from [e13components](#).

Looking into the 'guts', a nice touch is the way the boomerang mounting is designed to fit onto it's own ISCG adaptor. If your frame does not have the new fangled tabs, you can mount the supplied die cast adaptor plate behind the drive BB cup to add ISCG capabilities to your rig. This also means one device back plate fits all - less chance for you or your shop to order the wrong fitment..

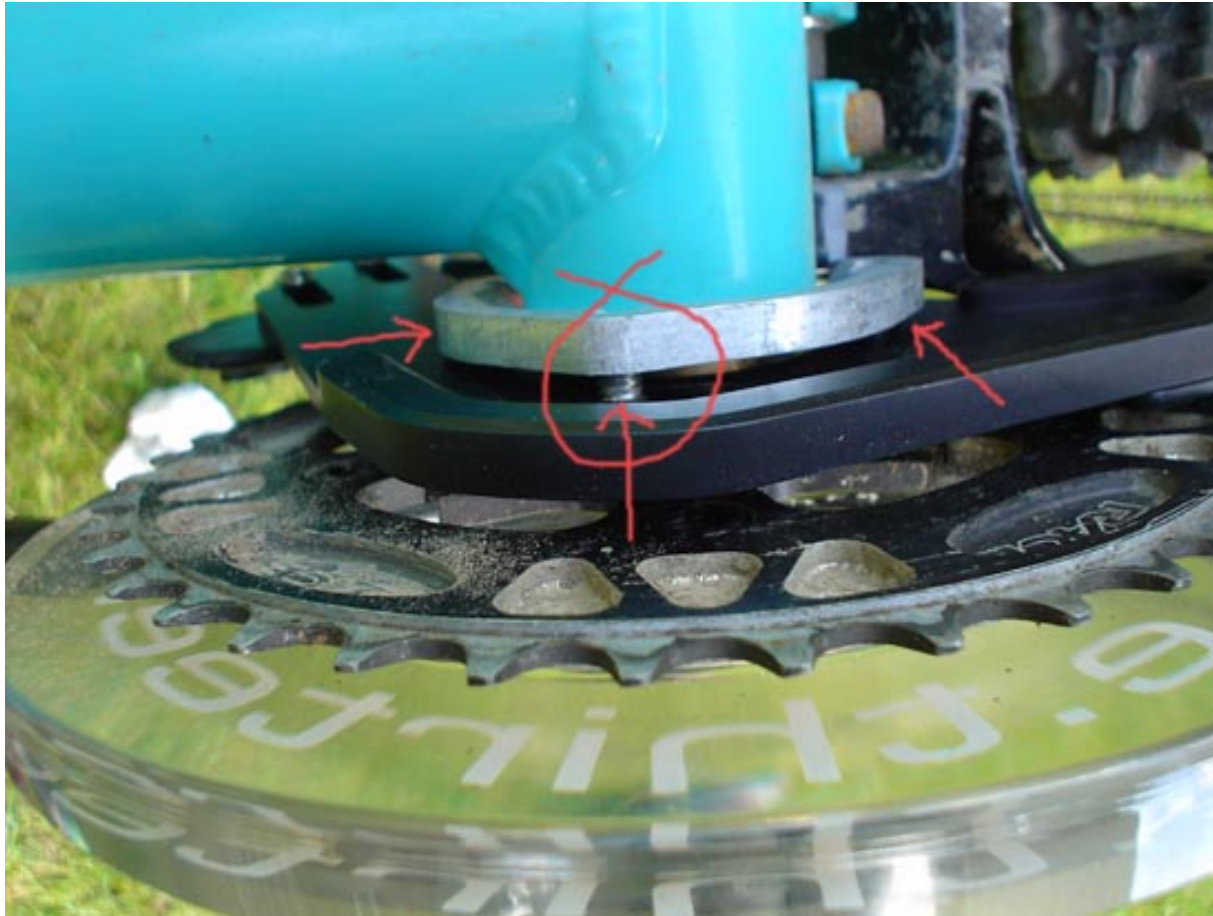


The plate mounts "flange side in" to the BB shell to give ISCG mounts.

Setup was pretty straight forward once all the bits were figured out. I preferred, as usual, to use my own solution as the supplied instructions were a shade complicated! All the hardware (top guide and lower jockey wheel) needs to be chopped off the plastic 'tree' and fitted to the

boomerang with the bolts supplied. Ensure all the plastic parts are carefully trimmed – I ended up with an untrimmed jockey wheel fouling my chain.

The only area that requires careful setup is the back plate spacing. Using my technique, the outer plate is fitted to the cranks and then the cranks installed. Make sure the inner boomerang is in place.



Fit spacers to the bolts in the positions shown, between back plate and ISCG adaptor

As long as you have access through the crank arm (plenty of hex key clearance on my North Shores), you can now bolt the boomerang to the ISGS mounts with the correct washers in the gap. Set the device so the outer face of the guides are level with the outer face of the plate. Job's a good 'un.



Check the alignment, re-space if required and then ride...

In use, the device is smooth and drag free due to the lower jockey wheel spinning freely. The jockey wheel also keeps the chain central, with no rub on the plates in the gears where the chain line is less than ideal.

One big advantage is the lack of inner (back) plate, minimising the places where mud can stick. So far, my chain has run faultlessly even in the thick mud of the Midlands race at Bala.

I did find that (perhaps due to the stiff plastic construction) there is some noise and chatter if the chain rubs the inner guide. That's a pretty small point but I couldn't dial it out.

So, to sum up, e thirteen are strong, light, simple device that's compatible with different mounting systems. Do exactly what it's designed to and looks mighty fine into the bargain.

Rating : Recommended

More info from e13components.com.

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