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## e.thirteen DRS Chainguide

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Sat Oct 15 19:54:36 PDT 2005



e.thirteen DRS Chainguide

A trend is occurring to the drive trains of high-end bikes. Unless you have been hiding in a hole all season, you will have noticed that the drivetrains on the best bikes from many manufacturers such as Norco, Devinci, Santa Cruz, and the like have one thing in common. The e.thirteen chainguide is taking over. Whether it be with the single ring SRS and

STS systems or their two ring DRS system, this small company is changing the biking world one bike at a time.

After riding the STS system for a while on my new urban bike, I decided to contact John Pentecost at e.thirteen and see about getting a new DRS guide for my downhill steed. I received great service, and an even better guide. Unfortunately, in a tired haze, I made a bad decision and left my bike in the back of my Jeep for a few hours while I got some much needed sleep, and it was stolen. Just goes to show that even in good neighborhoods, shit happens. Even so, here are my thoughts on this flip-flop freeride fantasy.

### Assembly

My guide came with easy to follow installation instructions. The first of which was to get a certified mechanic to do the installation for me. But despite that, I decided to try it myself, so I rode over to my local shop and got to work. I hit a couple



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of small snags when it got to the more technical stuff, but overall, it was a really easy install. The biggest thing is whether or not you have the proper tools. Without the right equipment, any job turns into a nightmare, and this would be no exception.

#### Performance

This is a performance chainguide, and it shows. Being the lazy guy that I am, I haven't adjusted my front derailleur in way too long, but the e.thirteen DRS kept things running smoothly. Not that I would suggest running a poorly adjusted derailleur, but I was impressed by my experience. With a soft, smooth flip-flop roller, you also get a nice, quietly running drive train. I never even noticed the chain going back and forth on the roller while I was shifting.

#### Durability

To truly test this caliber of componentry you have to really punish it and push it's limits. This guide held it's own against everything I threw at it. With a tough aluminum hanger, durable plastic, and sealed cartridge bearings, the chainguide should have a good lifespan, and we all know how sturdy the Makrolon bashguard is.

Punishing this guide at the likes of Panorama and Mount 7 only cemented my belief in it. This is one well-designed product. The bashguard kept everything out of harms way, and the guide was able to keep everything running smoothly despite knocks, rocks, and plenty of rolls. Not known for being smooth, I was able to put my DRS through the motions and it came out practically unscathed.

#### Overall Impression

Overall, there's not much to say other than this is one hell of a guide. The creative mind of Dave Weagle at e.thirteen has given birth to a product that is easily able to stack up against the big boys. I highly recommend the DRS to anyone in the market for a new chainguide. No matter what you're riding, if you run a guard, like going uphill, or just having a few more gear options, and want to keep your chain on the sprockets, look no further. The e.thirteen DRS is the answer to your prayers.

I'd like to thank John Pentecost at e.thirteen components for the fast and easy service, as well as the guys at Western Cycle in Edmonton, Alberta for their help and the use of their shop and tools.

Eric Beyer - TrailPeak Editor

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