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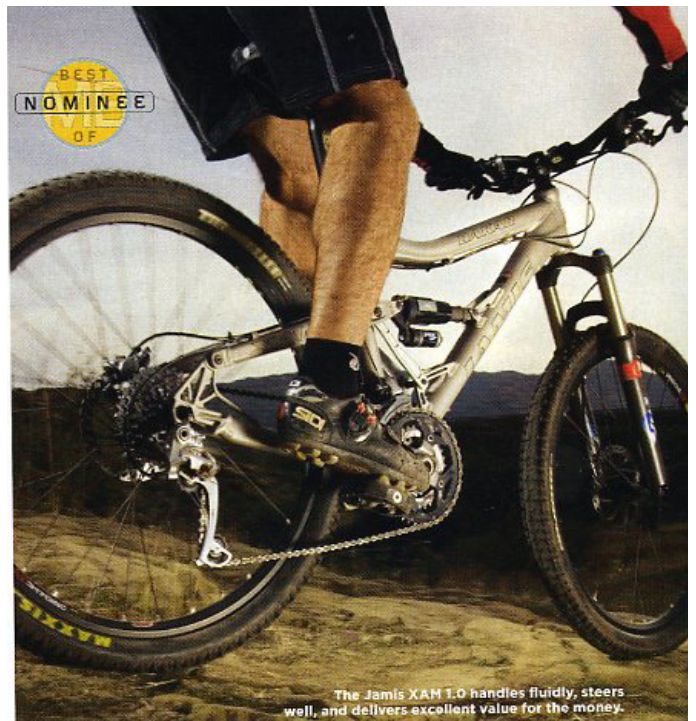
→ **Jamis XAM 1.0**  
\$1,900

We tested Jamis's new XAM 1.0 on the Rock Creek trail outside of Mammoth, California, and on Templeton Trail in Sedona, Arizona. And after a week's worth of hammering, it was pretty clear that the Jamis delivered a lot more value and performance than we anticipated. Both trails are fairly rocky, with high-speed sections, but they also demand slow, technical maneuvering. And it was on this sort of terrain that the XAM's FOX suspension provided the effortless control and isolation we love it for. The XAM 1.0's handling was generally neutral, though riders found it was a bit more responsive than other all-mountain bikes. The bike is a bit of a sluggish climber; the suspension bobs (adding air pressure to the FOX Boost Valve will firm it up, but at the expense of small-bump compliance) and the big, sticky Maxxis tires that you want to hug and kiss for their downhill performance roll a bit slowly. Still, the 9-mile pavement climb to the top of Rock Creek wasn't miserable, just leisurely.

The DHX 3.0 rear unit grants the XAM 1.0 a deep suspension feel without harsh bottoming or the wallowing ride of a Cadillac on blown shocks. The beauty of this shock's feel, along with the excellent job Jamis did of tuning the bike's leverage ratio and axle path, almost make up for the XAM's somewhat short travel. If you look at the playing field, 5.25 inches of rear travel isn't as much as most all-mountain bikes offer and is a bit short for the 30-plus-pound all-mountain bike.

While there were times we wished we had more travel, the XAM 1.0 left us otherwise highly satisfied. We've marveled at Jamis's value-laden bikes for years and we're thrilled to note that, while the overall quality and performance of its bikes has increased, it still manages to pack 'em with value. You'll be hard-pressed to find more bike for the money. —M.P.

**HIGHS:** A great ride and value **LOWS:** A bit short on travel for the weight **SIZES:** 15,17 (tested), 19, 21 in. **WEIGHT:** 33.2lb. (17in.) **FRAME:** Kinesium aluminum; FOX DHX 3.0 shock w/ 133mm travel **FORK:** FOX 32 Float RL w 140mm travel **COMPONENT HIGHLIGHTS:** Shimano LX shifters, XT rear derailleur, Deore front derailleur, LX cranks; Hayes HFX-9 brakes; Mavic XM317 rims; Maxxis High Roller 2.5in. tires; Easton EA50 bar, Vice stem and seatpost



ALL-MOUNTAIN



# 07



**TRAIL** → **Jamis Dakar XCR Expert \$2,350**

**NEW CHASSIS:** Jamis's 100mm-travel XCR line gets a new frame, and FOX F100 RL fork gets updated, with stiffer, increased crown/stanchion overlap and quad-tapered lower legs. **TRIGGER HAPPY:** Shimano's rapidfire trigger shifters feature either a push- or pull-release trigger, depending on your preference. **SIZES:** 13,15,17,19,21in **FRAME/COMPONENT HIGHLIGHTS:** Kinesium alloy main triangle w/7005 stays; FOX Float RP2 shock w/100mm travel, F100 RL fork w/100mm travel; Shimano Deore XT Rapidfire Plus SL shifters; derailleurs and crank; Avid Juicy Five disc brakes; Mavic XM317 disc rims—*R.K.*



**NEW RIDER** → **Jamis Dakar XC \$865**

**GOOD:** Featuring Jamis's reputable multilink suspension platform, the Dakar XC was a Bicycling Editor's Choice winner in '06. **TRACKING:** The suspension is fully active with a near-vertical wheel path and impressive lateral and torsional stiffness. This exact design has won many NORBA and World Cup series races. **SIZES:** 13,15,17,19,21in **FRAME/COMPONENT HIGHLIGHTS:** 7005 aluminum frame w/box-section stays; FOX Vanilla coil-over shock w/90mm travel; Manitou Slate Comp fork w/100mm travel; Shimano Alivio SL shifters, Deore rear derailleur; Easton EA30 stem, post and Monkeybar—*M.C.*



**WOMEN'S** → **Jamis Dakota Comp \$1,325**

**ALWAYS IN THE GAME:** Jamis bikes have always come in small sizes, but they were never designed specifically for women. So when dealers asked for a female-friendly bike, Jamis didn't just rename an existing model. **NOW IT'S OFFICIAL:** Instead, it reworked the Dakota Comp's geometry to fit a woman's body. **SIZES:** 15.5,17in **FRAME/COMPONENT HIGHLIGHTS:** Kinesis Superlight frame; Manitou R7 Comp fork w/100mm travel; WTB Speed Disc rims; Shimano M505 pedals, Deore crank, LX Rapidfire shifters; Avid Juicy Three brakes; WTB Speed She Sport saddle; Easton EA30 seatpost, EA30 XC flat handlebar—*Jennifer Sherry*