

PRODUCT


## THE SKINNY

SPOKES (F/R): 24/30  
WEIGHT: 1360g (pair without qr's)  
RIM: 19mm aluminum rim  
HUB: Carbon Core platform  
PRICE: \$1199 (pair)  
CONTACT: [topolintech.com](http://topolintech.com)

TOPOLINO WHEELS LOOK DIFFERENT! We came across these guys a couple of years ago at Interbike and were stunned that they would choose to take a completely different route when it comes to wheel construction. The spokes look like bamboo and appear that they are glued to the hub. It was different then and still is today. It's unique and downright cool looking. Looks, aesthetics and design aside, the Topolino's work well. Don't be intimidated by their low weight or "fragile" looking appearance, you'll just end up with pie in your face. The spokes that look like bamboo are actually carbon fiber at the core (the black part) and wrapped with Kevlar (the gold part). This "sandwich" is essentially bonded together with a thermoplastic resin matrix making for a spoke that is as strong as aerospace aluminum and one-fifth the weight of a traditional 14-gauge stainless spoke. We aren't done yet! The spoke actually passes through the hub and continues to the other side of the rim. Essentially the spoke is bent to form a shallow "V" and rather than creating stress on the spoke like most would assume, it actually doesn't because the hub is molded around the spoke. With 10-speed cassettes taking up a ton of real estate, Topolino has chosen to put 50 percent more spokes on the drive side to balance out the spoke tension between the two sides of the wheel without any weight penalty. In the end, it allows Topolino to use a lighter rim than normal because they typically use more spokes.

The Carbon Core series builds upon the success of their Revelation series wheelsets. They have made some advances in the hub platform and bearing technology that they believe will take their products to the next level. The new hub hosts a taller, woven carbon hub flange, and a roller bearing supported freehub assembly as well.

The rim technology utilizes stronger materials with an extruded rim made from an enhanced 6000 series aluminum alloy that is considered to be significantly stronger than the 6061-T6 used most often these days. Topolino suggests that the new rims will have greater durability and fatigue life. The brake wall is machined after the rim is formed to provide a smooth, consistent high-friction surface for braking modulation. The rim seam is welded instead of being pinned or sleeved, providing a high strength joint with a 100% consistent and even brake track surface. The rim section has a full 19mm width and 19mm height. It also features a teardrop profile that optimizes the rim's aerodynamics.

The 2.0's are incredibly responsive, quiet and tough. Using the Kuota KOM for the test bike, I decided to ride a few heavy fire roads. Bouncing around and hitting some sections hard, the CX's never wavered and came out without any problems. Another cool feature is that the freewheel is whisper quiet! 

# Topolino CX 2.0

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Words and images\_Schamber

