

**GRAB-ON MTN 2 HEX****Weight:** 95g**Material:** Foam**Length:** 135mm**Plugs:** Yes**Surface:** Smooth bevelled**Colours:** Black with pink/green plugs

A purpose-made mountain bike grip, made popular about five years ago on Gary Fisher mountain bikes. It's been slimmed down and is comfortable. The close-cell neoprene lasts longer than normal foam grips. The rough surface can leave a black stain, especially on your thumb. Separate plugs come too, so fitting bar ends is easy, and a duet with Lube n' Glue makes getting them on easier. Madison has recently reduced the price from £9.95.

**Price:** £7.95**Supplier:** Madison Cycles**GRAB-ON MTN CRUZ****Weight:** 35g**Material:** Foam**Length:** 130mm**Plugs:** Yes**Surface:****Colours:** Black, black plugs

Lighter and thinner than the original Grab-ons with a much smoother texture. Made from foam instead of neoprene with a moulded profile to fit the shape of your hand. Not as rugged as the MTN IIs but with a two-year guarantee which is darn good value. Two 18ins lengths of foam (not shown) come with them to fit one-piece bar combos. And these longer lengths are ideal for cutting down into shorter grips or for covering standard bar ends.

**Price:** £11.95**Supplier:** Madison Cycles**OXFORD****Weight:** 50g**Material:** Neoprene**Length:** 135mm**Plugs:** Yes**Surface:** Plain**Colours:** Black, Neon pink, Aqua green and purple.

Soft and squidgy, for maximum comfort, with a simple design that reduces the trail vibrations making it to your arms. Made from close-cell neoprene, which resists oil and water, they should last for ages. They also come with end plugs and a small bottle of adhesive which, according to Oxford, is safe to sell to minors because it can't be sniffed. Available in loads of colours, these are good value for money.

**Price:** £4.95**Supplier:** Oxford Products (0865) 841400**TREK MTN****Weight:** 97g**Material:** Kraton rubber**Length:** 125mm**Plugs:** No**Surface:** Half mushroom, half hexagon**Colours:** Black

Follow a recent trend of having a combination surface, mushroom on one side for comfort and shock handling; bevelled or hex on the other to fit into the curvature of your hand for grip. The low-density Kraton rubber construction means good in wet and muddy conditions. Easy to fit with a groove for a zip-tie for security. Spec'd on all Trek's production MTBs.

**Price:** £6.95. **Supplier:** Trek UK (0462) 811458**VETTA GEL****Weight:** Somebody stole them before we could weigh them. **Material:** Lycra covered gel grip**Length:** 125mm. **Plugs:** No

**Surface:** Smooth anatomical. **Colours:** Yellow. A gel pad is stuck onto a rubber grip and then covered with lycra. A comfortable choice that fits the natural shape of your hand but tends to wear easily and is a little bulky. The lycra cover splits and the gel pad can come away from the base. They have a closed end, which means you have to chop them before fixing on. We expect Vetta and other companies to bring out endless versions in the near future.

**Price:** N/A. **Supplier:** Caratti (0454) 273 733**TIOGA BIO GRIPS****Weight:** 125g. **Material:** Rubber**Length:** 130mm**Plugs:** No**Surface:** Smooth anatomical**Colours:** Black, yellow, green

Identical in design to Bio-Grips II, made from Kraton rubber without the softer foam or neoprene content. The shape is the same as the IIs, with cut away sections to reduce weight and fit the palm. The end is thinner making it easier to cut a hole to fit bar ends. Common on production MTBs these grips come in three colours and are reasonably priced.

**Price:** N/A**Supplier:** Caratti (0454) 273 733**TIOGA BIO GRIPS II****Weight:** 88g**Material:** Rubber/neoprene mix**Length:** 125mm. **Plugs:** Yes**Surface:** Smooth anatomical**Colours:** Black

The blurb from Tioga says these are made of exclusively-formed Kraton rubber compound - but in fact it is similar to most people's Kraton rubber compound. A patented shape fits the hand with flared ends and a flat frontal section for fingers. The thin shape means maximum palm contact. More padding at the rear and less at the front means more comfort where it's needed. Come with removable end plugs with built-in expander bolts that hold them in securely. A sound well-designed versatile grip.

**Price:** N/A. **Supplier:** Caratti (0454) 273 733**RITCHEY TRUE GRIP II****Weight:** 96g. **Material:** Kraton rubber**Length:** 125mm. **Plugs:** Yes**Surface:** Ridged - anatomical. **Colours:** Black

True Grip IIs appeared for the first time early this year on Peugeot bikes - not that we had seen the True Grip IIs or any other Ritchey grips for that matter. They feature a unique design which can only be described as spiralled, bevelled and six-sided. The bevels act as teeth which cut into your hand (not literally) and give good grip in all conditions. Also anatomical, for left and right hands. Durable and well made, they come with separate end plugs.

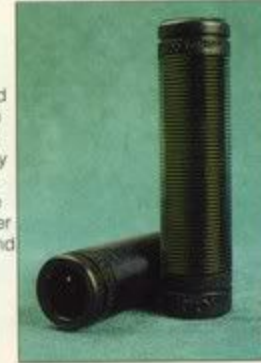
**Price:** N/A. **Supplier:** Caratti (0454) 273 733**ODI - TOMAC ATTACK****Weight:** 70g. **Material:** Kraton Rubber**Length:** 125mm. **Plugs:** No**Surface:** Mushroom**Colours:** Black, grey, pink, green and purple

A big seller. Used by John 'I've got 'em in two colours' Tomac. He's also supposed to have designed them but we keep an open mind on this. With a basic mushroom design and zip tie slots for added security they last ages, and, even with their low profile design, are comfortable.

Uncomplicated, they work best in dry conditions. Available in lots of colours, and you can chop the end off to fit bar ends. As a side comment we got ourselves worked up about their unnecessary packaging - a large plastic tube when a plastic bag or piece of card would do. First one to ring Paul at MBI and suggest what to do with the tube will win these grips.

**Price:** £7.99. **Supplier:** Caratti (0454) 273 733**ODI ENDLESS****Weight:** 75g. **Material:** Kraton Rubber**Length:** 125mm**Plugs:** No. **Surface:** Mushroom**Colours:** Black, grey, pink, green,

If you don't want to chop the end off your standard ODIs then buy a pair of ODI Endless. Longer than the standard models they have a hole already cut in, so fitting bar ends after the grips is easier. They form one part of a bar/bar end system, with ODI grip tape forming the other part. This is a tape like liquorice that remains sticky and springy even after two cycles in the washing machine. Popular on and off the race circuit these grips come in loads of lomo colours, and with trick free stickers - dead cool.

**Price:** N/A. **Supplier:** Caratti (0454) 273 733



#### AVENIR MTN GRIPS

**Weight:** 85g  
**Material:** Kraton rubber  
**Length:** 135mm  
**Plugs:** No  
**Surface:** Ribbed  
**Colours:** Black  
Easy to fit with a zip tie groove on the end, and cutting a hole in the end is dead simple. Their Kraton rubber is not as soft or grippy as others, but is still comfortable. Avenir is Diamond Back's accessory company, so these simple grips get used by top Diamond Back riders here and abroad.

**Price:** £6.25

**Supplier:** Moore Large (0332) 740084



#### EMMELLE CHEVRON GEL GRIPS

**Weight:** 118g  
**Material:** Gel Rubber mix  
**Length:** 130mm  
**Plugs:** No  
**Surface:** Chevrons  
**Colours:** Black  
Soft and grippy, made from a mixture of rubber and gel, these have a chevron design which is only superficial and collects dirt rather than aids grip. Hard plastic ends which last ages are moulded on to stop the bars cutting through. (Chop these off to fit bar ends.) Cheap and cheerful.

**Price:** £3

**Supplier:** Moore Large (0332) 740084



#### EMMELLE CLASSIC MTB GRIPS

**Weight:** 102g  
**Material:** Gel/rubber mix  
**Length:** 130mm  
**Plugs:** No  
**Surface:** Smooth anatomical  
**Colours:** Black  
Anatomically designed these offer only one hand position, which is not good for climbing or getting out of the saddle when your position changes. The rubber compound is harder but more durable than normal. Two raised padded sections fit into the palm of your hand. Ideal for leisure riders.

**Price:** £2.79

**Supplier:** Moore Large (0332) 740084



#### EMMELLE FOAM GRIPS

**Weight:** 30g  
**Material:** Foam  
**Length:** 125mm  
**Plugs:** No  
**Surface:** Smooth  
**Colours:** Lots  
The lightest grips we tested, with an outlandish marble type finish! Vacuum moulded foam, which is not the most durable material, but is comfortable. Ideal for the leisure rider and boy racer, they will also appeal to lightweight freaks.

**Price:** £2.59

**Supplier:** Moore Large (0332) 740084



#### EMMELLE CORK GRIPS

**Weight:** 38g  
**Material:** Cork  
**Length:** 130mm  
**Plugs:** No  
**Surface:** Smooth  
**Colours:** Natural  
Cork is used in bathroom floors because of its non-slip quality. It's also light. Comfortable, with a simple tapered design that conforms to most hands - these models are not very flexible. They should last a year. Cutting a hole in the end for bar ends is impossible.

**Price:** £8.50

**Supplier:** Moore Large (0332) 740084



#### EMMELLE KNOBBLY GEL GRIPS

**Weight:** 138g  
**Material:** Gel/rubber mix  
**Length:** 130mm  
**Plugs:** No  
**Surface:** Ribbed knobs  
**Colours:** Black  
A tread pattern which is more cosmetic than functional just offers some sort of gripping surface. The very soft gel/rubber compound is so grippy it's almost liquid. Tend to squidge around under your hand when riding which takes some getting used to. Offer good comfort and cushioning against trail vibration.

**Price:** £4.39

**Supplier:** Moore Large (0332) 740084



#### INNOVATIONS

**Weight:** 75g  
**Material:** Kraton rubber  
**Length:** 130mm  
**Plugs:** No  
**Surface:** Bevelled  
**Colours:** Black  
Made from a mixture of gel and Kraton rubber. The seven-sided shape fits most hands and is claimed to reduce nerve damage - we wait to be amazed. Really soft and squidgy, comfortable but not too assertive. Left and right designed, but they can be swapped round without any noticeable difference.

**Price:** N/A

**Supplier:** Lifecycle



#### ANSWER AGGRESSORS

**Weight:** 89g  
**Material:** Kraton Rubber  
**Length:** 125mm  
**Plugs:** No  
**Surface:** Mushroom, cut-away squares  
**Colours:** Pink, black, red, blue, purple.  
A dual-purpose surface; mushroom on the top for comfort and shock absorbency and recessed squares underneath for grip. Finger tips fit neatly into the squares and a plain section near the end cuddles your thumb. Designed specifically to be used with under-bar STI shifters and made from Kraton-G Thermoplastic rubber - Wow! Zip-tie grooves mean non-slip grips and the low-profile design makes room for smaller hands. Loads of colours for loads of bikes and tastes. Cut the end off for bar ends.

**Price:** N/A

**Supplier:** Lifecycle



#### BONTRAGER

**Weight:** 74g  
**Material:** Kraton Rubber  
**Length:** 120mm  
**Plugs:** Yes  
**Surface:** Cut-away squares  
**Colours:** Black  
Hot off the boat come Bontrager grips with the same square pattern as the Aggressors, only all over. Fingertips again fit into these holes but are a bit uncomfortable with bare or thinly-gloved hands. The rubber compound feels and looks better than most. A removable rubber end cap allows you to fit bar ends. Neat packaging - a card on a piece of string. This is better than boxes or plastic tubes. Well we like it anyway.

**Price:** N/A

**Supplier:** NTI 081-423 0824



#### ONZA PORCI-PAWS

**Weight:** 66g  
**Material:** Kraton Rubber  
**Length:** 110mm  
**Plugs:** Yes  
**Surface:** Onza logo  
**Colours:** Black, red  
Made by the bar end people these grips have the Onza logo in relief all over them - for looks only. The very thin-walled construction means a tighter grip on the bars and is good for small hands. Two zip-ties are included in the pack, for security. Two end plugs also included for fixing bar ends. Available in two colours, for racers and performance riders.

**Price:** N/A

**Supplier:** NTI 081-423 0824





**ATI PISTOLS**

**Weight:** 146g  
**Material:** Kraton Rubber  
**Length:** 155mm  
**Plugs:** Yes, screw-in type  
**Surface:** Mushroom  
**Colours:** Black only

At 15cm the longest on test, meaning you need extra long bars to take them up. Designed by BMXer 'Pistol Pete' Loncarevich. Comfortable and durable mushrooms which are not too bulky. Removable end plugs that expand in the bars when fitted. Zip-tie grooves. A big selection of plugs for bars and bar ends is also available - see July MBI. Some of the best on the market ATI products are available in only one colour.

**Price:** £5.50  
**Supplier:** Shiner (0272) 556035

**SPECIALIZED BIO-TOMIC**

**Weight:** 93g  
**Material:** Kraton Rubber  
**Length:** 130mm  
**Plugs:** No  
**Surface:** Smooth anatomical  
**Colours:** Black

Anatomically shaped to fit both hands, but this is difficult to make out. Changing them round seemed to make little difference. Rubber compound felt soft and tacky improving grip and control. Tapered internally to fit securely on all types of handlebars and thinner on one side than the other for increased comfort. We liked the shape of these grips - they felt comfortable without being bulky.

**Price:** N/A  
**Supplier:** Specialized

**HERMAUS HI-GRIP**

**Weight:** 99g  
**Material:** Rubber  
**Length:** 125mm  
**Plugs:** No  
**Surface:** Smooth anatomical  
**Colours:** Black

Cheap Taiwanese grip similar in appearance to the Tioga Bio grips, but with a slightly harder rubber compound. Left and right grips mean good palm contact. Cut away in places to increase comfort. Flanges at the end position the hands, and can be removed to fit bar ends.

**Price:** £2  
**Supplier:** CRA

**SPECIALIZED AUTO PILOT**

**Weight:** 114g  
**Material:** Kraton Rubber  
**Length:** 135mm  
**Plugs:** No  
**Surface:** Smooth with irregular bars  
**Colours:** Black

Specialized's basic racing grip features the familiar diamond plate design which is supposed to distribute the load evenly across the entire grip. Nice idea - but didn't feel any different from smooth grips. Felt really soft and tacky, and the double taper design (from the middle out towards each end) means they feel secure in your hand. The internal taper means a tighter fit at the end, and so more secure. A good basic grip for comfort and durability.

**Price:** N/A  
**Supplier:** Specialized

**ATI ISO-GRIP**

**Weight:** 88g  
**Material:** Kraton Rubber  
**Length:** 120mm  
**Plugs:** No  
**Surface:** Small knobs  
**Colours:** Black

760 Iso grippers or studs help displace water and mud from the contact area. Flexible and very assertive - ideal for wet weather riding and bog-hopping. The thin profile means tiny hands aren't excluded and a zip-tie groove adds security. This grip is also available in endless and bar end glove versions. An ideal grip for winter.

**Price:** £5.90  
**Supplier:** Shiner or Evolution

**SPECIALIZED AUTO PILOT-COMP**

**Weight:** 69g (less than stated!)  
**Material:** Kraton Rubber  
**Length:** 130mm  
**Plugs:** No  
**Surface:** Smooth with irregular bars  
**Colours:** Black

The top racing grip from Specialized. Slimmer than the normal Auto-Pilots. Have the same safety plate design but are only 2mm thick, which, according to Specialized, is the thinnest they could get in the vacuum moulder. Available next year in the new Uma-Gumma low density rubber compound, which is softer and will be used extensively in the '93 tyres. It absorbs more vibration and weighs less than the standard Kraton rubber. Feature the double tapered design, with an internal taper as well.

**Price:** N/A  
**Supplier:** Specialized

**ATI NEWTRON MTN**

**Weight:** 76g  
**Material:** Kraton Rubber  
**Length:** 120mm  
**Plugs:** No  
**Surface:** Large circles  
**Colours:** Black

Wider spaced knobs than the Iso-grip, designed for dry weather and general riding conditions. Large round studs absorb trail shock, but their thin-walled construction makes them a little harsh for gentle riding. A good all-round grip available in all three versions (as above).

**Price:** N/A  
**Supplier:** Shiner or Evolution

**SPECIALIZED GRIPSHIFT**

**Weight:** 116g  
**Material:** Rubber  
**Length:** 140mm (90mm + 50mm)  
**Plugs:** No  
**Surface:** Knobs  
**Colours:** Black

The two-piece design fits the '92 Gripshift and means you don't have to chop down a pair of standard grips. The same features as the Auto-Pilots but a different surface. The pronounced knobs are distinctive but more cosmetic than functional. Zip-tie groove for permanent positioning. A specialist grip for racers and hybrid riders.

**Price:** N/A  
**Supplier:** Specialized

