

Bike Test

SUB-£1K SPECIALIST BIKES

£750-£1,000



**IF YOU'RE UP FOR A TON OF FUN,
THE RAGLEY IS RIGHT UP THERE IN
THE READY-TO-RIOT RATINGS**

on a regular basis. The 'Fast Rolling' Trail Boss rear tyre keeps the Ragley lively through the pedals too, and it'll trundle between your favourite technical bits reasonably efficiently all day if that's your plan.

Inevitably there are downsides to such a downhill-focused ride if you're more of an XC rider. The super-low bottom bracket means regular pedal – and occasional crankset bashguard – contact on uneven/rocky/rooty

terrain, and the super-slack head angle will wander all over the place on steep climbs until you're used to it. The basic Shimano brakes also lack finesse on a bike that's otherwise bred for the most mental trails, and the Manitou fork flexes noticeably and occasionally chokes when pushed to the max. Like any hardtail that encourages flat-out riding, the rear wheel and tyre are always at more risk than on a full-suspension bike too. At least the

back end is forgiving enough that you can leave pressures high to help pneumatic survival.

If you're up for a ton of fun for your money, then the Ragley is right up there in the ready-to-riot ratings. >>

MBUK

Slack angles and smart spec for the money make the Marley a ton of fun on the steepest, sketchiest trails

