

## OTTO & SPIKE 'FROSTY' COMMUTER BEANIE

RRP \$30

Riding to work on frosty winter mornings makes the extremities ache. Most body heat is lost through the head, and if you wear a vented helmet, sport a clipper cut or have a landing strip where your hair used to be, you'll cop the chill particularly keenly. Happily, local knitwear company Otto & Spike has created a woolly beanie especially for bike commuters. Made from fine merino wool (notable for its odour-resistance, breathability and insulating properties), and elastane to give stretch, there's zero bulk to this base layer – you don't need to loosen helmet straps to make it fit, and when you warm up, it can be stashed in your pocket. The Frosty stretched easily over my head and ears, didn't compromise the fit of my helmet, and kept my temperature just right during the cold snap.

**Review by Fiona Negrin**

For more info and suppliers, go to [www.ottoandspike.com.au](http://www.ottoandspike.com.au)



| FUNCTION               | 5 |
|------------------------|---|
| MATERIALS & COMPONENTS | 5 |
| CONSTRUCTION           | 5 |
| APPEARANCE             | 3 |
| VALUE FOR MONEY        | 4 |

## BASIL 'MIRTE' BIKE SHOPPER BAG

RRP \$115

As an office worker required to wear corporate attire, I loved that I could take the Mirte shopper bag straight from my bike to my desk without anybody identifying it as a 'bike bag'! The bag's eye-catching and fashionable pattern attracted interest from co-workers. It carried all my kit for a day at work and includes a handy inner pocket to hold smaller items. It was easy to carry by hand, with two generous handles, although it would have been nice to have had a shoulder strap too. The Mirte mounts to a bike rack using two hooks.

I found it easy to mount but as it's made for wider Dutch racks, it slips a bit on skinnier Australian racks; you can remedy this by putting some rubber padding on the rack. When not on the bike, the hooks hide away inside a zipped pocket at the back. The bag includes reflective strips at both ends – useful when riding at night. This is definitely a funky and practical bag that's useful for riding to work, school or to the shops.

**Review by Annie Malesic**

For more info and suppliers, go to [www.gazellebicycles.com.au](http://www.gazellebicycles.com.au)



| FUNCTION               | 4   |
|------------------------|-----|
| MATERIALS & COMPONENTS | 4   |
| CONSTRUCTION           | 4   |
| APPEARANCE             | 4.5 |
| VALUE FOR MONEY        | 3   |