

**First look**

Folds small enough to go by train but is also capable of load- and child-carrying duties



Photography: Richard Pearce

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The Tern Vektron emphasises strength and carrying capacity  
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## Tech Spec TERN VEKTRON Q9

**Price:** £3,500.

**Sizes:** One size with telescopic seatpost.

**Folded size:** 86×68.5×42cm.

**Weight:** 23kg (50.7lb).

**Frame and fork:** Tern Vektron, hydroformed 7005-AL frame with OCL+ joint and one set of bottle mounts. Tern Tarsus aluminium fork.

**Wheels:** 55-406 Schwalbe Big Apple tyres, Kinetix Comp disc rims, stainless steel spokes, Shimano disc hubs.

**Transmission:** MKS EZY pedals, Vektron chainset, 52t chainring, 11-32t 9-speed cassette. Shimano Alivio shifter and rear derailleur. Nine

ratios, 33-95in.

**Electronics:** Bosch Active Line Plus mid-motor with 50Nm torque, Bosch PowerPack 400Wh battery, Bosch Purion display.

**Braking:** Shimano hydraulic discs.

**Steering and seating:** Tern Physis 'handlepost', fore-and-aft adjustable Tern Andros stem, flat bar. Telescopic seatpost, Tern Porter saddle.

**Equipment:** Atlas V rear rack (27kg rating), Tern Valo front light, Hermanns H-Trace rear light, SKS Chainblade chainguard, Splashguard mudguards, kickstand.

[ternbicycles.com](http://ternbicycles.com)

loops provided to use that. The Gocycle app is the only way to change power levels on the fly.

The G4 retains Gocycle's longstanding 'Cleandrive', a 3-speed hub-gear drivetrain that's fully enclosed in a structural chaincase. In contrast, the Tern has a wider-range 9-speed derailleur drivetrain. Both bikes have extremely effective hydraulic disc brakes, and both come with full mudguards and good-quality, hardwired LED lights.

### Accessories

The Gocycle has an optional 24-litre bespoke front bag, rated for up to 8kg and attaching via a proprietary fitting system. It costs £149.99, plus £24.99 for its rain cover. There is also an optional rear rack with a single-sided support that's rated for 10kg. This can't be removed quickly and so sticks out even when the bike is folded. To carry the Gocycle itself, there are two options: a slip-over lightweight cover (£29.99) for the train; and a substantial travel case (£229), which looks great for protection but isn't really bike portable – although it does have luggage wheels for use on foot.



**Top:** There's no noticeable flex from the beefy main hinge

**Bottom:** 1×9 gearing isn't as neat as the GoCycle's 3-speed hub but gives a greater range



The Tern has a plethora of optional extras. Check out the accessories section on Tern's website, using 'Vektron' as a filter. The two accessories I'd find most useful are the Stow Bag, a foldable cover and carry-bag combined (£140, 1.37kg), and the Bucketload Panniers (each of which costs £85 and carries up to 24 litres/9kg). Unlike most folders, you can also fit a child seat to the Tern Vektron's rack.

### The ride

Both bikes are stable and manoeuvrable enough for busy streets, and they're comfortable to ride. The Gocycle benefits from a small amount of rear suspension, and both bikes have shock-absorbing, large-volume tyres. The Gocycle feels the livelier of the two, making it easier to manoeuvre in tight spaces. Each bike has quite an upright riding position, although the Tern's adjustable stem gives some scope to alter this.

So far, so similar, so let's concentrate on the two areas where they differ most: motor performance and power controls. The Gocycle's front hub motor springs into life very shortly after you start to

