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FIFTEEN.G TRIPLE £195.99

The unique feature of Fifteen.G's cranks is the polygon interface on the bottom bracket axle. This is based on an old German DIN 32711 standard for three sided metric polygon connections, the idea being this type of interface has greater load-carrying capacity than a spline type connection like on Shimano's Hollowtech II cranks. A three-degree taper on the end of the axle creates an interference fit between axle and crank but due to there being a 100 per cent surface contact it should never come loose. The key thing is to tighten it correctly using a torque wrench and make sure the axle bottoms out. You can actually feel this happen as you tighten the crank.

The axle itself is 30mm in diameter, compared to the usual 24mm used by Shimano and Race Face. There is room in a conventional sized frame shell for an axle this size but Fifteen.G has fitted bigger external cups with oversized 6806 Japanese cartridge bearings to make it work. You can install the cups with the dedicated fitting tool but it's not worth the £20, especially when a 45mm 12-point socket available from Halfords works just as well, if not better because you don't have to keep removing it to clear the swingarm, which I had to do on my Orange 5.

There are some comparisons worth mentioning — the cranks and bottom bracket are only 40g heavier than Shimano XTR but half the price.

They're lighter than Shimano XT but £20 cheaper. Race Face Deus system is closer in weight but again more money at £219.99. There are other brands and models on the market but like for like the Fifteen.G chainset is better value and lighter weight. Fifteen.G also claims that in tests the system overall is at least equally as stiff as XT. The key phrase here is 'the system' because I could feel a slight tweak in the arms when really cranking out of turns or stomping up a climb. Maybe it's because the bottom bracket axle is so stiff that I can feel this, in the same way that a stiff front triangle highlights a flexible rear end.

That said, the Fifteen.G is a very good upgrade crankset, especially when you consider the replacement bottom bracket and rings are all cheaper than Shimano XT, and if the threads we've read on our forum are anything to go by possibly harder wearing. I'll only know that for sure after I've taken the Fifteen.G through the winter. **PB**



Weight: 711g (cranks)
BB 95g

Fitting tool £20

Replacement bottom
bracket £32.99

180, 175, 170mm
lengths

44, 32, 22 tooth rings

Contact: www.jungleproducts.co.uk