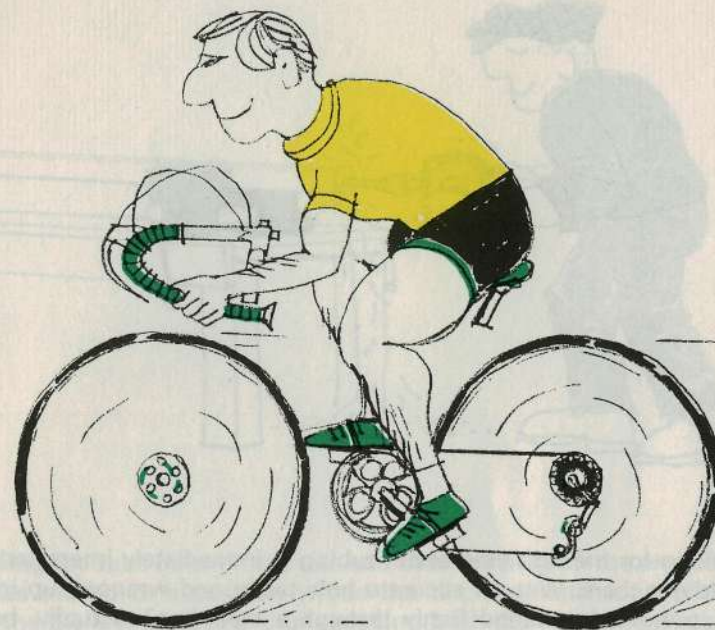


Top Tubes — by Reynolds

When bicycle builders the World over specify one particular type of tubing for their finest lightweight cycles, when bicycles made of that same tubing consistently win the World's major cycle races, including the Tour de France, most gruelling cycle race of all, then behind that tubing must lie a story.

We have tried in these few pages to sketch the outline of that story; to give an idea of the manufacture of this famous tubing, and so to show why those cyclists who are only satisfied with the very best, insist that their machines are built with REYNOLDS 531 BUTTED FRAME TUBES, FORK BLADES, AND STAYS.

Do you take your frame for granted?



What do YOU think is the most important part of a bicycle? The gears? The chain? Wheels? Cranks? Each is essential, each contributes its share to the ultimate success of the whole machine. We would suggest that perhaps the frame has the greatest claim to importance, because not only does it hold all the rest together (or apart—whichever you prefer) but it governs what sort of a "ride" you will get. If your frame is too rigid, it will transmit every vibration, every bump, from the road into your poor aching body; it will fight you on every bend of the way; it will drag you back on every hill.

If, on the other hand, your frame is too springy, it will whip wildly at every stroke of the pedals, every pull at the handlebars, making your ride unstable and jerky, and absorbing your energy instead of converting it to forward movement.

The ideal frame is lively, responsive and resilient, so that it becomes part of you when you ride it, reacting to your every move as you would wish. To achieve such a frame depends on the design, the way it is built, and the materials used for building it.

It is not for us to go into the subtleties of frame design, nor the technicalities of frame building. We just offer a few thoughts on the steel tubing from which our favourite lightweight frames are built.