

THE LAB

THE WORLD'S TRAILS ARE OUR TEST LABORATORY



TEXT ERIK BÖTZLE, FELIX RAUCH
PHOTOS MANFRED SCHMITT, PETER WALKER

MAGPED ENDURO2

The Magped team has re-engineered their innovative flats, hoping to attract downhill-oriented mountain bikers. The new ENDURO2 pedal – still relying on the magnetic connection between shoe and pedal – offers quite a few innovations. We've checked it out for you to find out what it's capable of and who it's for.



In 2018, Magped launched the magnetic safety pedal. From that point forward, the company has step by step developed pedals for all bike categories: from racing and gravel bikes through eMTBs to downhill bikes. According to the manufacturer, a patented magnetic mechanism lets you release the shoe from the pedal in a safe, simple and quick way. Thus, an entirely new pedal category has emerged next to flat and clipless pedals. We have taken a closer look at the ENDURO2, the most robust pedal of the family, the only proper way we know – downhill! The pedal comes in two variants differing in the force of the magnet and also in weight. The 150 N magnet is recommended for riders with a bodyweight of up to 80 kg and the 200 N magnet for those weighing over 75 kg. Depending on the variant, the price is € 159 and € 179 respectively. If you are a fan of good workmanship, you're in for a treat already when you start unpacking the pedals. They're the most beautiful milling work from the aluminum block. Both the feel and the looks are quite something. In the latest edition of the ENDURO2 pedals, the weight has been reduced, which hasn't stopped Magped from reinforcing the spindle. A pair weighs 477 g without pins. Due to the magnet, they are 50 g/pedal heavier than comparable flat pedals.

To use the Magped ENDURO2 pedals, you need a clipless shoe with a 2-hole SPD mount. So far so good, but don't expect regular cleats, though, as they're replaced by a screw-on flat metal plate, which connects to the built-in magnet. We tested the pedals with the Five Ten Hellcat Pro shoe, which should be well-suited according to the manufacturer because of the flat profile of the sole. We mounted the supplied plastic spacer under the metal plate to keep the distance to the sole at a maximum of 1–2 mm. Afterwards, we installed the supplied pins – as always relying on our tested motto: as many as necessary but as few as possible. It's all about placing the pins in such a way that they grip the sole and are neither unsupported nor (even worse) push the shoe away from the magnet. Up to 16 pins can be mounted directly into each pedal. The pins have two sides. Depending on which side you screw in, they are 9 mm or 11 mm high. The height of the magnet is also adjustable in order to help find the ideal contact point. The pedal spindle is screwed to the crank using a 6 mm allen key. Next, you need to clip in. Should we still call it that? Just hover above the pedal and wait for the unmistakable "clack" sound. That's it – you're already connected to the pedal.

After a brief adjustment period, the "clacking in" is easy. As the magnets are mounted on both sides of the pedal, it doesn't matter which side is up. You can always clip in without thinking, especially since the ENDURO2 can also be used without the magnetic connection (in case you get in over your head). Contrary to conventional clip-in pedals, this one can easily be used with regular shoes – in case you need to make a quick dash to the city, for instance. When properly adjusted, the pedal also withstands the pulling forces, and the circular motion is significantly smoother than with a conventional flat pedal. Once you get used to the smooth circular motion, returning to a non-magnetic flat will be difficult. Downhill and during jumps, the shoe is glued to the pedal resulting in higher stability and better contact to the bike. However, when you jerk your foot upwards, the pedal will release. So, if you were planning on cheating on bunny hops... think again. All in all, the force transmission is improved and the positioning of the foot on the pedal remains stable during the ride. The pedal effectively prevents any shifting of your foot. Actually, the whole thing works so well that you start to wonder if you're going to be able to clip out of the pedals quickly enough. No worries there, though. A feisty jerk upwards or a slight sideways movement will release the shoe easily from the pedal. So, this innovative solution offers both: stability on the pedal and no worries about clipping out.

If, despite ordering the stronger magnets, you find the connection too weak, you can order STRONG shoe plates from the Magped shop for € 22. According to the manufacturer, these plates should increase the connection to the magnet roughly by another 30%. If you want your shoes to clip in at the same position each time, Magped offer POSITIONING plates, which make it possible. However, we would rather trade this for the flexibility to easily adjust the position of the foot on the pedal.

Ambitious mountain bikers who wish for more contact with the bike and don't have a completely clean flat pedal technique will be thrilled with the ENDURO2. Those who often need to readjust the shoe on the pedal will experience a smoother and more stable ride with this pedal. Fans of sweating it out on the uphill will love the pulling force. And technical riders who want to step off the pedal quickly and easily when things get hairy have nothing to worry about with the ENDURO2. However, riders who want a really solid connection of a clipless pedal should stick to the tried clip-in systems. They may have got used to a riding style that could cause unintended releases with the Magped pedal. For us, on the other hand, both the pulling force and connection stability were absolutely sufficient during our trail test. So, the proof is in the pudding, so to speak. You may yet discover that you don't really need a super solid connection.

The Magped ENDURO2 pedal shines with magnificent workmanship and offers high stability and contact with the bike without compromising safety. Therefore, it is ideal for riders who regularly need to readjust the position of the foot on the pedal or easily lose contact with the pedal when jumping. Thus, the Magped ENDURO2 creates a whole new species of pedals – a true asset that should help many riders enjoy the trails more and offer added safety.

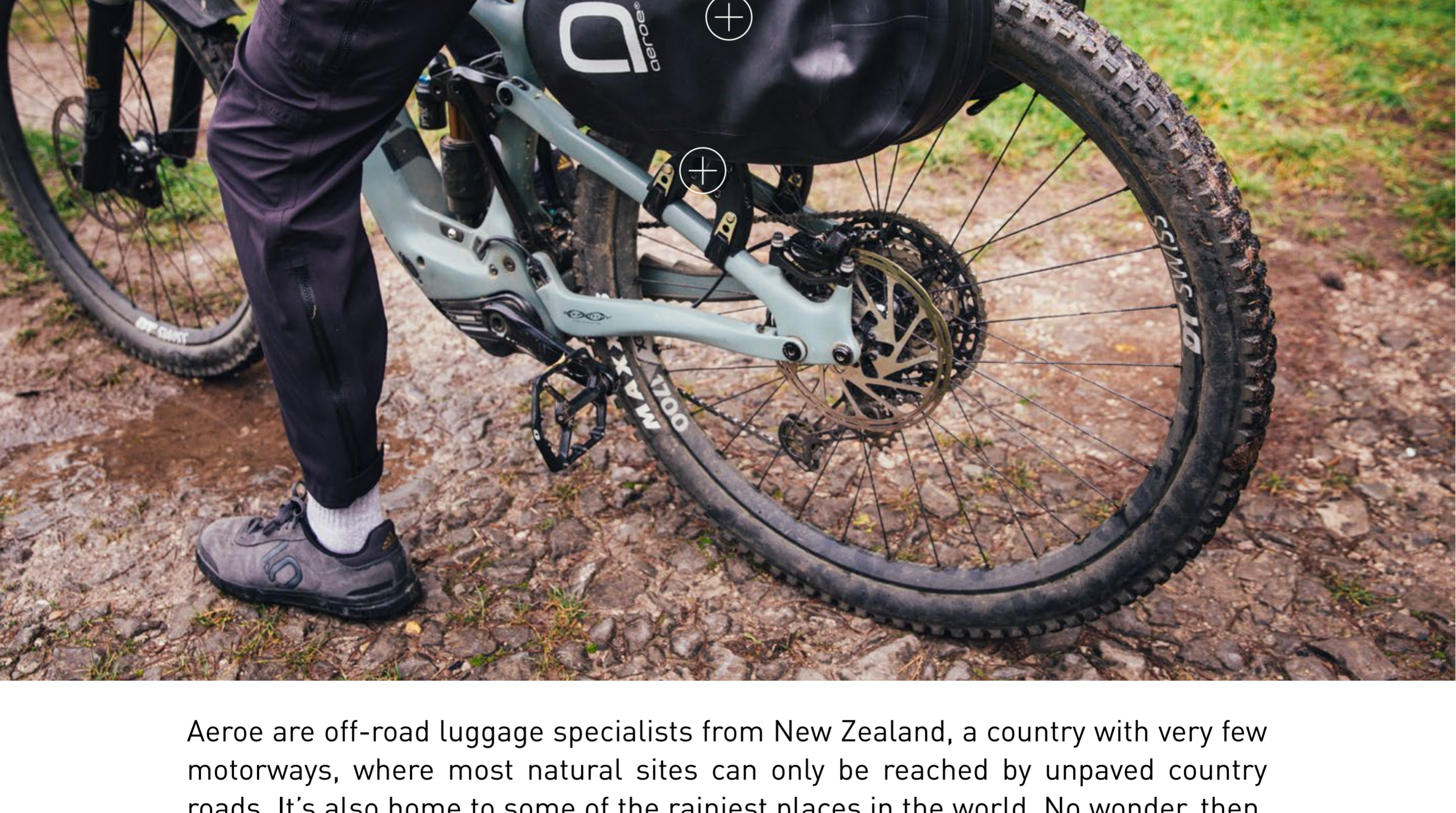
Price € 179 Weight 477 g per pair (without pins)

[manufacturer's website](#)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • quick step-on and step-off possible • no worries about clipping-out in technical terrain • makes pulling on the upstroke possible • higher stability on the pedal • good workmanship • can be used with regular shoes 	<p>TOPS</p>	<p>FLOPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • weight
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AEROE 11L QUICK MOUNT POD

Rain, wind, mud and hours of stages on bad trails: What sounds like a horror scenario for most bikers, should elicit a mere shrug of the shoulders for the aeroe 11L Quick Mount Pod panniers. We tested these stylish bags from New Zealand to reveal whether they are fit to be loyal companion!



Aeroe are off-road luggage specialists from New Zealand, a country with very few motorways, where most natural sites can only be reached by unpaved country roads. It's also home to some of the rainiest places in the world. No wonder, then, that aeroe put a lot of brainpower into the development of weatherproof luggage systems for bikes and are highly regarded among aficionados for their innovative products. Their 11L Quick Mount Pods are designed to be an absolute all-rounder for everything from gravel to eMTB tours.

To make the 11L Quick Mount Pods a thoroughly robust and weatherproof package, aeroe combine a composite plastic base with glass fibre reinforced nylon and a flexible, waterproof TPU nylon top. The inside of the hard shell is lightly padded so that the contents remain safe even on dirt tracks, ensuring that your expensive camera equipment or bottle of wine for the evening around the campfire arrive in one piece. To prevent the entire contents from falling out on you when opening the bag, two straps make sure that everything inside is kept in place. A wraparound zip allows the bag to be fully opened, which is particularly practical when packing. The outside sports a cool streamliner look, while the reflective aeroe logo provides additional safety in the dark.

Retailing at € 119, the bag weighs 772 g and is approved for a load of up to 7 kg by the New Zealand manufacturer. The included Uni-Mount, for attaching the bags onto the rear aeroe Rack, adds another € 156. Adding another € 119, the Spider Rear Rack makes for a rather pricey € 375 total. For a system with a rack and two pods. The Spider Rear Rack is supported by the seat stays, so no special mounts are needed and it fits almost all bikes that don't already have a rack installed, including full suspension bikes. The Uni-Mount is clamped to the Spider Rear Rack with a metal cap and tightened with 4 screws, though these are not compatible with other racks. The system only uses 5 mm allen screws, making assembly and trail-side adjustments much easier.

On the installed Uni-Mount, the bags can then be rotated 360° and locked in 15 positions, allowing the pods to be adjusted to fit the bike and your personal needs. Mounted horizontally, the bags leave enough room for riders with large feet, while mounted vertically, they leave space for a bulky bag or a third pod in the centre of the Spider Rack. To turn the aeroe 11L Quick Mount Pods to the desired position, simply pull the strap on the bottom of the bag, unlocking a pin, which allows the pods to rotate. If the angle fits, just let go of the strap and the pin will fix the whole thing in place. However, when snapping in place, make sure that the strap doesn't catch against the brake disc or get caught between the chain and the cassette! Always leave the strap pointing upwards. To remove the bag, simply pull the strap again and you have the pods in your hand. This can be done in the blink of an eye and offers real added value compared to conventional panniers – especially when you're looking for shelter in the pouring rain and every second counts! That said, the strap is the only real handle in the bags. The smooth nylon exterior otherwise offers no grip, which, especially in the rain, makes you feel like you're handling a slippery jellyfish.

The aeroe 11L Quick Mount Pods feel very robust and high quality. Packing is a breeze thanks to the all-round zip: unfold, pack, tie down, close, done! The double zip allows you to insert or remove things from only one side without having to open the pods entirely. Being able to open the pods completely is also very convenient while unloading: no need to rummage around in the depths of the bag, everything is right there at a glance. However, if you need something larger from the bag, you have to fully undo the zipper, which is rather impractical, especially on rainy days. The 11-litre volume means that you have to be very selective when it comes to deciding what to take with you and what to leave behind, making the Quick Mount Pods more suitable for lightweight purists or for multi-day tours with overnight stays in cabins or hostels, where you don't need quite so much luggage. For more volume, you can mount up to three 11-litre pods on the Spider Rack.

When riding, you quickly notice that nothing noisier whatsoever. The pods are firmly attached to the rack, making almost no noise even on rough trails. Depending on the rear triangle design and the placement of the rack and pods, the centre of gravity of the bags can be brought close to the rear wheel axle. Depending on the load, this makes the ride feel significantly more sluggish, but far less wobbly compared to similar designs where the centre of gravity sits higher up. If you have an eMTB with a carbon rear triangle, you should think twice about how much weight you want to pack into the panniers, because unlike other carrier constructions, such as the Old Man Mountain Divide, the entire weight rests on the seat stays. If things go badly, this can lead to damage or wear and tear to the frame and thus to problems in warranty claims. The position of the pods can also make the bike difficult to push if you have to dismount for a super steep climb, or pedestrian zone – they're not quite wide, so tend to get in the way as you walk. Even though the pods were not designed with pushing in mind, this can be rather annoying in the long run, particularly if you're tired after a long day of riding. The aeroe 11L Quick Mount Pods are especially in their element if you spend a long time in the rain. We put the pods to the test on a hut tour in constant rain and snowfall and were stoked to have a completely dry change of clothes at the hut!

The aeroe 11L Quick Mount Pods are a well conceived, user-friendly and innovative product! Clever details, such as the Uni-Mount or the strap for quick removal, set the Pods apart from those of other manufacturers. When packing and assembling, you'll be happy about the extremely easy handling and on tours in bad weather, you'll never have to worry about a dry change of clothes in the bag again. In conclusion, all this makes the aeroe 11L Quick Mount Pods loyal, if somewhat costly, companions, come rain or shine!

Price € 119 Weight 722 g Pod, 156 g Adapter

[manufacturer's website](#)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reliably waterproof • quick, easy and flexible installation • cool look 	<p>TOPS</p>	<p>FLOPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • high price • not compatible with carriers from other manufacturers
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