

Normann Stadler's LOOK KG486

BY JAY PRASUHN

Who says you can't ride a road bike effectively in triathlon? If you know what you are doing and what to look for in a bike, you can successfully transform a road bike into a fast triathlon bike. Evidently, German pro Normann Stadler knows what he's doing; he managed to ride away from a class field and get off the bike in Kona in first place on his way to a fourth-place finish at the Hawaii Ironman World Championships, earning the fastest bike split of the day on what is effectively a road bike, the LOOK KG486.

We know it's about the motor, not the bike. But part of his success is owed to Stadler's KG486, an anomaly in road circles. It's rare to see an aero-tubed full-carbon frame rig ridden over hill and dale during the Tour de France, just as the Credit Agricole did last year.

With a slack 73-degree seat angle, it's equipped for the road. But Stadler's Hawaii Ironman setup features a carbon AX Lightness post built onto a center-mount Tune clamp, with his Selle Italia SLR moved completely forward on the rails to artificially create a steep seat angle. A very short head tube combined with that high and forward saddle position allows the German power rider to install his aerobars relatively low—but as a true power rider, not too low. Stadler does not rely on aero position as much as leg power to speed him along, so he sits up ever-so-slightly in the cockpit with a set of spacers under his stem, opening his breathing in the process.

Stadler won't be riding this bike in 2004, having signed to ride an Italian Kuota, but this French-made LOOK KG486 is a monocoque carbon-fiber masterpiece with a lot of subtle features, such as a set of micro-adjust rear dropouts, a slightly sloping top tube and a stiff, beefy bottom bracket shell. In the land of triathlon-dedicated bikes, Normann Stadler's bike is a refreshing throwback (if you can call a light aero carbon bike a throwback). ▲



A FRAME	LOOK KG486	H TIRES	Continental Competition, 700c x 21mm tubulars
B FORK	LOOK HSC 4SL, carbon steerer	I PEDALS	LOOK Ironman CX-6
C HEADSET	Full Speed Ahead Orbit CF integrated, 1-1/8-inch	J SEAT POST	Tune Carbon micro-adjust, 27.2
D AEROBAR	Profile Design Carbon-X	K AERO HYDRATION	Profile Design Aerodrink and Profile Design Karbonlite bottle cages
E GROUPSET	Campagnolo Record 10-speed, 11-21 cassette	L SADDLE	Selle Italia SLR
F CHAINRING	Campagnolo Record, 53-39		
G WHEELS	Campagnolo Bora		

