

# FELT EDICT 3

BY MATT SURCH

Upon receiving Felt's updated, modernized Edict 3 for review, I couldn't wait to hit dirt. Launching into Quebec's Gatineau Park singletrack trails, I was immediately comfortable, manoeuvring and jumping the bike off rocks and roots.

This is the first 29'er I've ridden that handles like a 26" bike – it definitely shreds. Felt has managed to pull off a pretty nifty feat with its re-engineered Edict: it's a cross-country race platform, but it descends like a trail bike. This means the rig's steering is neutral (aka a slacker headtube angle), which allows its rider to steer more with the hips than the hands. With wide bars – the current style that works great – it's sometimes necessary to raise your outside elbow while railing turns to get the weight where needed.

Deftly, the Edict also manages to climb technical grades exceptionally well, defying what one might expect from its shallow 69.5° (measured) head angle. While climbing, I really appreciated the leverage that the wide bars provided, coupled with direct power transmission to the rear tire through the bike's rear suspension. I just pointed the bike where I wanted to go, and it went there. Essentially, the Edict allowed me to ride the way I want to ride mountain bikes – aggressively – as soon as I sat on it, with little time spent tuning its suspension. Frankly, this was impressive, if not shocking.

At the heart of the redesigned Edict line is a new FAST suspension system, characterized by clean lines and relative simplicity, forgoing the typical rear drop-out pivot found in four-bar suspension designs in favour of sag molded into the rear triangle, a novel approach. By moving to a single chainring-specific format, Felt is able to use 436mm chainstays and their optimal main-pivot location rather than choose a compromise between chainrings, yielding smooth pedaling efficiency and effective mid-stroke travel.

The Edict's progressive 100mm rear end provides the best of all worlds: great pedaling, excellent responsiveness and bottomless feel. Running low pressure in the rear shock during my first ride, I pushed through its full travel countless times, but never felt it bottom-out once.

The RockShox Reba RL Solo Air fork, with its 120mm of travel and remote lockout, is an excellent complement to the bike's rear end, and it likewise provided smooth, bottomless-feeling suspension action.

The fact that the bike's ride height is low, but not too low, with approximately 30% sag, suggests the platform is quite versatile, affording riders the ability to

## THE BIKE

### Price

\$4,899

### Weight

28.1 lbs

### Components

SRAM's 1x12 Eagle drivetrain

### Frame/Fork/Shock

UHC Advanced carbon fibre/FAST suspension system (rear);

RockShox Reba RL Solo (front)

### Geometry

Headtube 69.5°, seat-tube 69°/73.3° effective

### Sizes

S, M, L (tested), XL

### Comments

A solid, value-packed machine that definitely shreds.



tune the suspension to the style of riding desired: soft for a trail-bike feel, firming up all the way to a cross-country-race feel. This bike is efficient even while set up soft, which was also impressive. For those looking to exploit the full potential of the Edict platform, I'd recommend a 120mm fork.

The frame delivers low weight but retains torsional stiffness through the skilled use of UHC Advanced carbon fibre. The Edict 3 uses Boost spacing front and rear, a SRAM Eagle drivetrain, a crowd-pleasing return to a threaded bottom bracket and extremely clean internal cable routing (including routing for a dropper seatpost).

The bike's wheels track well, and there is no discernable lateral flex, though I'd upgrade the wheelset to lighten this rig up from its 28.1 lb. overall weight. The exact frame built to Edict 1 spec is 25 lbs., while the higher-grade FRD flagship model tips the scale at a mere 22.77 lbs.

Felt's geometry updates to its platform translate into responsive manoeuvring

**Felt packs fantastic value into the updated Edict 3 that is ready to rip out of the box for incredible shredding**

while retaining excellent climbing prowess and handling on descents, making this ride much closer to a trail bike than a typical cross-country machine. Felt packs fantastic value into a machine that is ready to rip out of the box.

The Edict 3 delivers a solid value at less than \$5,000, with rock-solid specs that require no immediate modification and a frame that is worthy of upgrades over time. SRAM's 1x12 Eagle drivetrain functions effectively, simplifying shifting and allowing the rider to focus on the trail.

The lasting impression delivered by the entire package is that every part of the bike does its job seamlessly beneath the rider, without drama. This is exactly what lets you hone in on the trail, focus on the push and the pull and feel that sensation we're all after – fun!

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