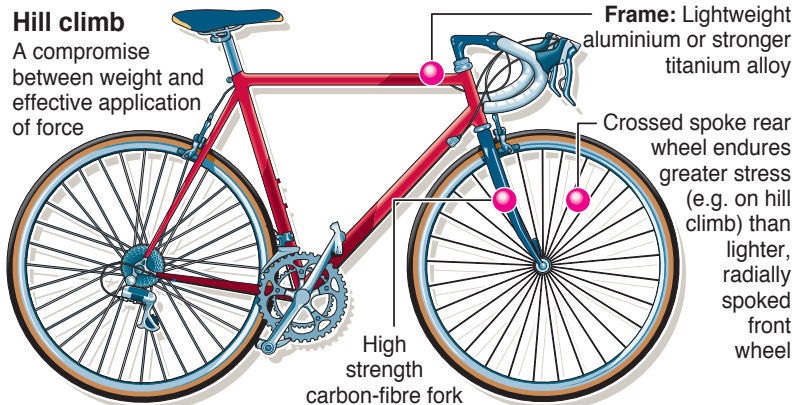


Tour de France: Tools of the trade

Challengers for the *maillot jeune* must take every opportunity to gain time over their rivals, and weaknesses are best exposed in two particular phases of the race – time trials and punishing hill climbs – both of which demand a very different type of machine

Hill climb

A compromise between weight and effective application of force



Time trial

Designed to reduce wind resistance of man and machine combined to the absolute minimum

Frame

cross-section

Aerodynamic, highly rigid carbon-fibre teardrop

Handlebars

Moulded into front fork for low riding position

Aerobars

For tucked riding position

Flick switch electronic gear-shift

Elbow rest

