



Extended Gearing for the Road Bike

In a previous article, I mentioned altering the gearing on my Giant Defy to provide more suitable options for hills. I went to 11-34 on the back and 52-34 on the front with an oval 34 tooth chainwheel. My choices were constrained by having Di2 fitted to the bike.

I ended up changing the rear derailleur to a Di2 8070 GS (mid length cage) which then allowed the 34 tooth gear, the largest and only off the shelf option with Di2. The 8000 series derailleurs have an altered mechanism to the previous generation which makes this possible. Looking at the image below you can see the derailleur mount articulates in the latest variant compared to its predecessors, providing the additional range.



In the articles below, the author contemplates the same dilemma, but with the benefit of manual shifting has more options. These articles are an insightful look at the options for extending gearing with the benefit of deep analysis and good explanations.

Well worth reading if you have ever given this topic some thought.

Description	Link
Part 1 analyses the problem and describes a simple solution.	http://biketestreviews.com/wolftooth-roadlink/
Part 2 takes a closer look at extended gearing options.	http://biketestreviews.com/part-2-extended-gearing-road-bike/
Part 3 covers the trials and tribulations of putting it all together and reviews the results.	http://biketestreviews.com/part-3-extended-gearing-for-the-road-bike/