

PRODUCT TEST

WARP 9

PRODUCT: The Warp 9 wheels come complete with stainless steel brake rotors and sprocket and use 7000-series aluminum for the rims with oversized stainless steel spokes and nipples. The hubs are CNC-machined billet aluminum, and all parts are OEM interchangeable, including the bearings, seals, sprockets and brake rotors. You can purchase the front and rear wheels individually and are available in custom colors upon request. We put a set of Warp 9 wheels on Kyle Redmond's EnduroCross CRF250R at the beginning of the season, selecting an 18-inch rear rim for better off-road tire selection. Prices for assembled wheels start at \$359.

POSITIVE: First off, the Warp 9 wheelset looks really good. The red hubs and black rims complemented the Honda well. Because Kyle Redmond rides through terrain most people shy away from, he ended up smashing the rear brake rotor and subsequently bent a couple of disc tabs on the hub. We were able to replace the rotor and tweak back the two tabs and kept motoring. We followed the spoke-tightening instructions, and after the first couple of hours, we didn't have to tighten the spokes. We love that the hubs use OEM bearings and the sprocket and brake rotors are all OEM mounts, making it easy to swap parts if needed. The brake rotors that come with the wheels are thick and tough.

NEGATIVE: In the 2011 EnduroCross season, Kyle cracked one rear rim, which really isn't bad considering what the rims hit and ride over. EnduroCross bikes typically run a very soft mousse insert or Tire Balls, replicating about 6 psi if a normal tube was used. This soft setup doesn't allow much cushion before the rim smashes into rocks and logs. We sent the entire wheel back to Warp 9 and, for a small fee, they replaced the rim and shipped it back quickly. The cracked rim wasn't a product flaw; it was due to heavy abuse.

BOTTOM LINE: If you need some good wheels that look nice on your bike and you can't spend thousands of dollars, the Warp 9 wheelset is a good choice. □

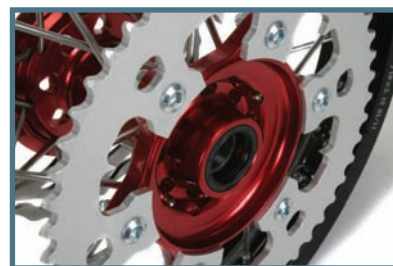


The brake rotors that come on the wheelset are thicker than stock and worked well.



The Warp 9 wheels look good and many color combos are available.

The wheelsets come with brake rotors and a stout rear sprocket. ►



Mounted and ready on Kyle Redmond's EnduroCross machine.

RATING:

Installation: 9.5

Durability: 8

Value: 9

Performance: 8.5

Overall: 9/10

Contact: www.warp9racing.com