EFFETTO MARIPOSA GIUSTAFORZA TORQUE WRENCH

There are quite a few different schools of thought when it comes to proper torque specifications, ranging from "pinky finger tight" to "strip it, then back it off 1/2 a turn." Some people will argue that one can develop a "feel" for properly torqued bits. While this may be loosely true, there is no substitute for a proper torque wrench, particularly with the proliferation of carbon and other fancy-pants parts. No one wants to crimp that purty new carbon bar, or worse yet, have it fail on the trail due to over-tightening.

Alberto Gioannini and his company Effetto Mariposa have come to the rescue with a torque wrench so nice you'll actually want to use it. Gioannini, a former designer for the likes of Vittoria and Geax, started Effetto Mariposa with the mission of producing products that are often overlooked throughout the industry, the first of which is the Giustaforza torque wrench. The machined aluminum body, which certainly is a thing of beauty, has a window indexed to 0.5 Nm increments for easy adjustment. The 2-16 Nm torque range is designed for handlebars, stems, seatpost binders, as well as many brake and shift fasteners. You'll still need a larger wrench for crank bolts and other high torque applications. The Giustaforza boasts an accuracy of +/- 4%, which is guaranteed for 5,000 cycles. After that, simply send it back for recalibration and you'll be good for another 5,000 clicks.

Using the Giustaforza is a simple pleasure. Dial up the desired torque value, select the proper bit from the pile of 16—marvel at how nicely the non-ratcheting, magnetic head holds said bit—and tighten until you hear a nice positive "click" accompanied by 3° of free movement. Remove your bit, dial the torque value back down to its minimum setting for storage and you're all finished.

The $150 price tag may be a lot for the home mechanic to justify, but could help curb your He-Man tendencies. Personally, I feel this tool would make a nice addition to any high-end shop due to its precision and ease of use. Made in Italy. –Justin Steiner

Source: Effetto Mariposa Giustaforza Torque Wrench, (2008, February 15). Retrieved March 20, 2008 from DirtRag no.133, page 64.