



savor the flavor

How many licks can this candy take?

CRANKBROTHERS CANDY 3 \$120 / CRANKBROTHERS

CRANKBROTHERS' CANDY PEDALS always had their strong points. They boasted staggering simplicity, ample float, unmatched mud shedding and just enough platform for shoe support. Durability issues, however, left a dark stain on an otherwise shining pedal. That, right there, has caused many riders to steer clear of the Candy. So, when Crankbrothers launched its Candy 3 pedal, promising improved reliability, I was anxious to mount some on my bike.

The affordable Candy 3 sits just one step (and \$255 dollars) down in the lineup from the up-settingly expensive, top-end Candy 11s. When they designed the Candy 3, Crankbrothers took every part of the old pedal and improved it. It sports a new spindle that's a claimed 50-percent stronger, better seals, a two-piece aluminum body, a reverse wound retention spring (claimed to be 50-times more durable) and crank-side needle bearings (instead of bushings). On top of all this, Crankbrothers slapped an extra three years onto its warranty, bumping it up to five years.

I've been stomping on these pedals for a little over a year now. I've smashed them repeatedly on Moab, Utah's, unforgiving rock formations, slogged them through rain and snow in Ashland, Oregon, scraped them endlessly through the abrasive decomposed granite of Southern California and bailed countless times in each and every one of those areas. In other words, I did my best to ruin these pedals, and I am pleased to say that I failed. I couldn't bend an axle, explode a spring or even crush a retention wing.

While the Candy 3s didn't physically break, at about the one-year mark, one of the needle bearings pooped the bed and became very reluctant to spin. I ordered a rebuild kit (\$15) to fix this. The kit includes everything needed to replace all of the guts and even a punch to remove the old bearings.

All and all, performing the rebuild was a piece of cake. I did, however, find it strange that some of the pedal's internals didn't match the parts in the rebuild kit—the retention wing assembly's bushings were a different length and the end cap was made of plastic instead of metal. Plus, there were some rubber o-rings included in the rebuild kit that had no explanation as to where they should go.

During the rebuild, I deduced that the seal had let in some water that caused the needle bearing and axle spindle to corrode. I smoothed the rough rust spots out best I could and loaded the new bearing up with grease to hopefully prevent near future rebuilds. Since the rebuild, the pedal has spun smoothly.

The innards of the Candy 3s may not last as long as a set of comparable Shimanos, but a rebuild kit only costs 15 bucks from Crankbrothers' website, the rebuild process is pretty simple and it seemingly only needs to be done once per year. So if you don't mind performing some annual maintenance, and your knees or personal preferences don't like other brands' offerings, the Candy 3s certainly make for a tasty choice. —RYAN LABAR