

7900 - A Cyclocross Group?

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I was reading a little write-up on Shimano's upcoming 7900 Dura-Ace. I wish I could find it now, but I can't seem to locate it anymore.

Anyway, the new brakes caught my attention. Apparently, the new levers *pull more cable!* I don't know if it's as much as a v-brake lever, but this could be good.

I assume this is also a feature of the upcoming **electronic Dura-Ace** levers. Though I doubt I'll ever shell out the cash for an electronic group, I would love to try it out for cyclocross!

I try to set my bike up for maximum reliability. I don't have the support required to repeatedly switch bikes during a race, so I decided last year that my goal should be configuring a bike that can last an entire 60 minutes in nasty conditions.

One big barrier for a 60 minute bike is the rear shifting performance. You can tweak things to help keep out the elements, like string one big length of shift cable instead of breaking it down into segments. You can adjust things to better deal with the elements, like using an 8 speed drivetrain. But the fact remains that the elements can still prevail and mess up your shifting.

But what if no shift cable was involved? The derailleur knows how far it has to move, and it moves just the right amount, no matter what. I assume that means even with increased resistance due to mud, grass, whatever, you'll still pop into gear without any troubles. Wouldn't that be nice?

I don't know if this would catch on with the PRO scene, since most of them probably wouldn't want to ride the same bike from start to finish, if just for the issue of added weight of all the mud they're collecting. However, I'd certainly like to give it a whirl!