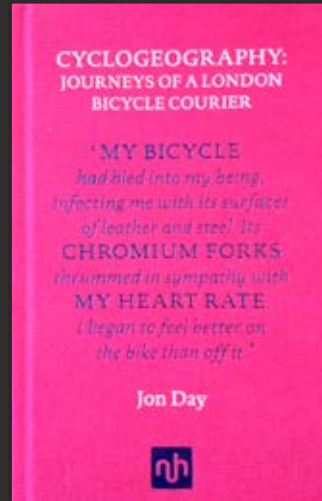
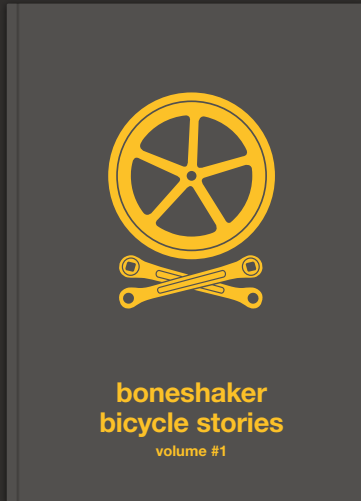


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# drava

/draw.va/

Words & pictures

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Not so long ago, we patriots over here in the USA had an election. Some might say that the vote came back a bit of a surprise, which maybe shouldn't have been the case if we all just rode our bikes more, with our heads up, and not staring at our digital gadgets. It has been said that social media, data dependency and the inability to recognize our reality may have influenced our democracy like never before. Simply put, "Data Don't Vote, People Do". The guy who won did not depend on polling data to tell him where to go, he just rolled out all over the place.

America's obsession with and pursuit of quantifiable data in every facet of our personal and professional lives – through smartphones, tablets, Fitbits, Garmins, surveys, assessments and tests – is eroding the way we appreciate the human experience.

That erosion was the motivation for me to construct a garage-fresh handlebar-mounted doofer out of plexiglass, pipe hangers, a five-cent piece, a pencil and some paper. Making a bike an artistic tool for a unique artist process, bicycle riding. A sweet tongue-in-cheek retort to the quantifiable data-hounds we ride with...Watts? Strava?



# a sweet tongue-in-cheek retort to the quantifiable data-hounds we ride with... watts? strava?



Though mimicking the collection of data obtained with a GPS tracker, drava is a truly analog recording means of pencil on paper, which creates a tactile translation of a bicycle ride into some cracking artwork that can beautify any loo or office wall. Bumps, accelerations, braking, and flow generate a ride map of sorts, which may or may not be a more factual output than those produced by digital means... and may even connect us to the Truth and the Universe as a whole.

Over the past few years, the first contraption has transcended into 3D-printed and laser cut devices, only to appreciate further into a utilitarian-friendly version made of cardboard, zip ties, rubber bands and a 25-cent piece – resulting in an open-source device which can easily be produced and shared – accessible to all.

It's simple to make, but you may need to pedal to your local DIY store for some modest bits. So put your 'maker' knickers on, get building, ride free and enjoy the art in every journey.

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Downloadable drava PDF templates and ingredient lists are available at [markbowersart.com](http://markbowersart.com)

