

Kit on test

The gear currently being used by the RiDE team

Pictures Mark Manning, Matt Hull, Simon Lee, Paul Bryant and Jason Critchell

Shoei GT-Air

£470

www.feridax.com

Comfortable touring helmet

Shoei's first full-face helmet to feature a flip-down sun visor is so comfortable that it feels like I've been using it for years, not days. It's also outstandingly stable. Behind lorries the sculpted shell produces little buffeting. It's light too – my helmet only weighs 1450g with the breath strip and chin curtain fitted.

The GT-Air has massive vents – one on the chin bar which is ineffective, and the very effective top-mounted one which has two stages of opening. It's refreshing and super-whoosh.

It's not quiet, which I'm guessing is caused by the deep recesses in the shell for speakers. Even with the removable ear pads fitted, I can't ride in it without earplugs.

The drop-down sun visor is great when it's really bright but it's much darker than many tints, so I find I'm flipping it up the moment the sun goes behind the clouds. Illogically, the switch to flip it up or down works back to front. The edge of the sun visor sweeps up at the corners, so with that, the outline of the Pinlock, and the padding there's a lot going on in your peripheral vision.

But don't let these minor niggles put you off. As touring helmets go, it's brilliant.

Steve Herbert



GT-Air comes with Pinlock and breath guard as standard



Amphibious SoftSeat

£78

www.shop4bikers.co.uk

Universal-fit alternative to Airhawk cushions

Very easy to use, this is a self-inflating cushion that will fit on top of virtually any bike seat (or pillion seat). It's from Italian company Amphibious, who do a wide range of bags and other high-quality gear for bikers and watersports types. We've tried it on a variety of bikes, and it can make a real difference.

Colin Overland



Furygan Jet Evo

£44.99

www.nevism.co.uk

Light and flexible yet sturdy shorty gloves

Short gloves tend to be either too bulky (because they're for enduro riders) or too feeble (because they're style-led kit aimed at cruiser riders who aren't planning on crashing today) but these strike a good balance: a short and flexible but sturdy mix of leather and polyamide with knuckle protectors.

Colin Overland

JARGON BUSTER

CE approval: European product safety labelling system. If something has CE approval it means the product has been tested and found to meet a certain standard. Confusion arises because you have to read the label to see precisely what it applies to – often it refers only to the armour in a product, not the product as a whole. There are two levels of CE approval for body armour: EN1621-2 is higher than EN1621-1.

ACU Gold: Sticker required on any helmet used on track.

ECE22-05: Helmets sold in the UK are tested to this standard.

Sharp: This government scheme awards helmets a rating out of five.

Snell test: United States helmet safety standard. Universally respected, but has no standing in British law.