

a long way since their geeky origins. Here are 16 of the best and most versatile



Spada Cyclone Blast, from £109.99

There's nothing fancy about the Cyclone Blast, but it's a solidly-specced and designed helmet considering the price. The removable lining is soft, the paintschemes offer a little more than the common plain affairs and the gadgets are on a par with other lids here. There's an internal sun visor, single-hand chinbar lifting operation, microlock buckle strap fastener and chunky vents at the chin and top.



Sizes: XS-XXL **Colours:** Black, black/fluoro, white/black, black and white. **Actual weight:** 1730g (L)
Contact: www.spadaclimbing.co.uk



Shoei Neotec, £469.99-£499.99

You pay for it, but the class shines through on this Japanese-made helmet, with a soft and comfortable removable lining, a positive feel to the switch that operates the internal sun visor and a top-spec Pinlock MaxVision anti-mist insert. The Neotec's shell has been designed with extra space for the internal sun visor, so it doesn't reduce the thickness of protective polystyrene liner.



Sizes: XS-XXL **Colours:** Silver, white, matt black, grey, black, silver and black/neon yellow. **Actual weight:** 1587g (M)
Contact: www.shoeiassured.co.uk



X-Lite X1003, £349.99

There's a top-quality feel to this Italian-made helmet that puts it in the Premier League alongside Shoei and Schuberth. It's light, the comfort lining has a sumptuous finish and the micrometric strap fastening buckle has a classy metal construction. It opens with one hand, using two buttons for added security, and is tested as both full-face and as an open-face.



Sizes: XXS-3XL **Colours:** Black, white, grey. **Actual weight:** 1519g (S)
Contact: www.motogear.co.uk



Schuberth C3Pro, £499.99-£599.99

This is a classy production from the German firm, with an attention to detail that's reflected in the price. The removable inner lining is velvety and there's an extra pocket to house the strap closure so it creates less turbulence. The inner visor mechanism runs smoothly and the chunky chin and top vents are easy to operate. It's prepared for an optional comms system.



Sizes: XS-XXXL **Colours:** Gloss black, plain black, white, silver, neon yellow, matt black and graphics. **Actual weight:** 1519g (M)
Contact: www.tranam.co.uk



HJC RPHA Max Evo, £369.99

The lightest helmet here (by a small margin) is also among the sportiest as the shape and fit is based on the RPHA10 helmet worn by MotoGP racer Jorge Lorenzo. HJC has revamped the design for 2014 to improve the rain seal and incorporate channels for a comms system. It has a plush removable lining, internal sun visor, Pinlock anti-mist insert and secures with a micrometric strap.



Sizes: XS-XXL **Colours:** White, anthracite, silver, matt black and gloss black. **Actual weight:** 1510g (M)
Contact: www.oxprod.com



Shark Evoline, £319.99-£339.99

One of the two helmets here with a rotational chinbar that slides over the shell and sits at the back so the rider can have the feel of an open-face without an elevated chinbar sat on top of the lid. It has a soft lining, the internal sun visor runs on a slick mechanism and there are easy-to-open vents at the chin and top, with a micrometric buckle strap fastener.



Sizes: XS-XL **Colours:** Black, silver, white and various multi-coloured schemes. **Actual weight:** 1738g (M)
Contact: www.nevis.uk.com



Held Travel Champ, £109.99-£119.99

German company Held is best known for its clothing, but this budget-priced lid is a good offering. The paintscheme is unusually attractive for the price and the spec matches those of others for this money, with an internal sun visor, micrometric fastener, one-thumb opening and vents at the chin and top of the shell. There's no Pinlock insert, although there are pins to secure one.



Sizes: XS-XL **Colours:** Black, matt black, white, black/white and black/grey
Contact: www.held-uk.co.uk



LS2 FF393.2, £199.99

This one allows the chinbar to be lifted and rotated to the back of the helmet, giving a much more realistic open-face helmet than riding around with a chinbar in the raised position. The downside is a rear-heavy weight distribution. Has an internal sun visor and a soft, removable lining that contains Outlast material for temperature regulation.



Sizes: XS-XXL **Colours:** White, matt black, gloss black, matt titanium, hi-viz yellow, matt black/white, white/black/red and black/hi-viz yellow. **Actual weight:** 1790g (S) **Contact:** www.ls2helmets.com/uk