

TRIED & TESTED

MCN STAFF RATE THEIR RIDING KIT

★★★★★



Nye's 100% goggles work perfectly with the Shoei



Time to face those rocks and branches

Five months ON TEST

Shoei VFX-WR06 £479.99

# 'A cut above the competition'



**Tested by Nye Davis for five months**

When it comes to helmets, I could fairly be described as a creature of habit – so as far as I'm concerned, there's Shoei, then there's the rest. That's not to say that there aren't some brilliant alternatives, but for me, nothing seems to fit – or last – quite as well as a Shoei.

That's why I have three helmets in active rotation, despite two of the trio being pretty old and battered now. They simply have a discernible excellence about them, and the VFX-WR06 is no different.

The not-so-catchily named lid is the Japanese firm's top shelf off-roader – in fact it's their only fully dirt-focused offering. The shell uses Shoei's multi-composite AIM+, which is designed to absorb knocks while

maintaining rigidity and comes in four sizes (XS-S, M, L, XL-XXL), contributing to a slim outer profile.

Inside you get a multi-density EPS liner with the firm's 'Motion Energy Distribution System' to reduce rotational forces. I'm yet to have any huge moments to test this, but I have become well acquainted with a few rocks and tree branches and have come away unscathed.

One thing Shoei seem to nail every time is padding. No matter how much sweat (or other bodily fluids) you've introduced, their liners always come up fresh and velvet soft after a wash.

Out of the box, the VFX feels a touch firmer than some of Shoei's road lids, but the Dry Max cheek pads are perfectly comfortable and dry out impressively quickly, meaning, for the most part, you get to avoid the displeasure of slipping into

yesterday's sweat on the second morning of an enduro weekender.

My only real gripe is that the internal pads can come loose quite easily, sometimes shifting when pulling the helmet off or sliding goggles back into place, which feels poor on a premium helmet.

Speaking of goggles, the frontal opening is suitably massive and should accommodate pretty much any brand. I always gravitate towards 100%, and they fit perfectly.

Ventilation is superb, too, with multiple intakes and exhausts across the brow, crown, chin, rear and neck keeping airflow constant. The trade-off is obviously substantial wind noise on the road, but this was never meant for motorway miles.

Weight (or lack of it) is another strong suit, and at just 1250g, the Shoei undercuts many rivals – even

carbon ones – by more than 100g.

It has to be conceded that the VFX isn't what you'd call cheap – retailing at £479.99 for plain options, or £599.99 for the multi-coloured Jammer variant – especially for something that will take regular knocks, right from the off. That said, the combination of excellent ventilation, minimal mass, quality, comfort and above all else, safety, still makes it good value in my book.

**MCN rating ★★★★★**  
[www.shoeiassured.co.uk](http://www.shoeiassured.co.uk)

- PROS & CONS
- +

Super light, all-day comfort, great airflow
- Some of the lining could be more secure



Aerodynamic design keeps it stable



Double-D strap is quick and secure