

TRIED & TESTED

MCN STAFF RATE THEIR RIDING KIT

★★★★★

1000 miles ON TEST



Four buckles for adjustability... and they work a treat



Sidi Crossair X £549.99

‘Protection at a premium’

They're rugged yet light with supreme feel



Tested by Nye Davis for six months

Sidi have taken all the finest attributes of their previous range-toppers and come up with what they say is their most advanced offering yet – the new Crossair X.

Sitting as the Italian firm's premier off-road product, Sidi certainly haven't scrimped on development, calling upon none other than nine-time MXGP champ Antonio Cairoli, among others, to help craft the ultimate competition boot.

With all that said, you'd expect the Crossairs to be rather special, offering plimsoll-like peg-feel with class-topping protection, all tied up with the sort of comfort usually reserved for your favourite slippers.

And you'd be right. They're superbly light, with excellent feedback, bags of traction and enough protection to keep your lower limbs

intact when best laid plans go awry. The only gripe is that comfort hasn't quite lived up to expectations.

My first taste of how good these boots are came during a very sloppy morning of motocross, riding a completely unfamiliar track in decidedly sub-optimal conditions.

While negotiating this quagmire, trying to maintain enough pace to keep my tyres clear, the boots were utterly unnoticeable – which is about as high a praise as you could hope for on first use. They never got in the way, impeded gear shifts or reduced my ability to operate the brake.

A few months of varied use later – made up of a mix of trail riding, enduro racing and the odd wobble around an MX track – and they've become a trusty companion that have saved my legs in more than a few crashes and risky dabs.

One of their standout attributes is just how light they feel. They wouldn't

be my first choice of running shoe, but for a full-on MX boot, they're impressively minimalist.

Despite this, they've proved time and time again to be very sturdy, while still offering excellent mobility thanks to their three-point 'flexion control' structure.

As is typical for Sidi boots, they are a narrower fit than most, with a slim midsole and narrow calf opening. The latter is changeable, however, thanks to adjusters on the shin plate.

Another point-well-done by Sidi's design team are the buckles. With some lesser boots, the buckles will work fine when they're clean, but throw a few hours of Welsh bog at them and you'll have a job trying to get them to open or close without resorting to a hand tools.

There's no such issue here, though, and no matter what, the four-per-boot nylon fasteners have proved reliable and easy to use.

This is not to say the Crossairs are perfect. Normal pay-to-play event use is yet to cause any discomfort, but when wearing them in anger for sustained periods, some rubbing has occurred, typically on my little toes (this may not affect all riders).

Finally, it has to be said that while the glued on Materiis compound sole is indeed very grippy and durable, I'd prefer to see the replaceable SRS system used elsewhere in the range.

MCN rating★★★★★
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PROS & CONS

+ Lightweight, excellent feel, colour choice, quality buckles, ankle hinge system, plenty of protection

- No SRS sole, rubbing during longer races



Three-point 'flexion control' design offers superb flexibility and support