

TRIED & TESTED

MCN STAFF RATE THEIR RIDING KIT

★★★★★

Super-stable and free of intrusive turbulence all the way up to 140mph

4450 MILES ON TEST



The RPHA looks fantastic and the quality feels top-notch



HJC RPHA 60 Quid £469.99 + Smart HJC 11B comms £149.99

# ‘Be Quids in with the RPHA’



**Tested by Richard Newland for four months**

After tens of thousands of miles in Arai's Tour-X4, and tens of thousands more in Shoei's Hornet ADV, one might expect the more affordable HJC to feel like a less premium option – but that's most definitely not the case. The updated-for-2025 RPHA 60 is a remarkably well-spec'd helmet, loaded with features and design touches that mark it out as a fabulous option. But it's not perfect. The first thing you notice is the feel and finish. This is a very nicely made helmet, and the closer you interrogate it, the better it looks. The paint finishes and detailing are excellent, and the designs and colours appeal to my desire for bold and bright, but devoid of garishness. Styling is a subjective matter, but a

serious amount of thought has gone into the design. The shell shape delivers a supremely stable and turbulence-free airflow, regardless of whether you're bolt-upright, or canted forward. The peak is rigid enough not to bounce or flutter even at high speed – I've tested it to 140mph on an R1300GS (on a runway). The venting is very good, and even in 30°C+ heat you don't get too warm – but neither of the main vents (chin and top) provide tornado-force flow. The top vent delivers the most blast, but it is loud when open. The four exhaust vents are open at all times. The lining is comfortable and has zero signs of use after nearly 4500 miles, and can be removed and washed – while there's also an emergency-release system for the cheek pads. The chin strap uses a double-D fastener (still the best, in my opinion), and a popper secures the

loose end. One D has a little locator tab on it, and if it passes the other D it can be hard to undo the strap, but it's easy to ensure it doesn't happen. The visor system is superb, with an effortlessly easy release mechanism that makes visor changes possible in a matter of seconds – and you don't need to remove the peak to do them. It comes with a clear visor and a smoked version – but the design of the smoked one is a little odd in use and obscures your view slightly when raised. I usually ride with the clear visor, using the integrated sun visor (which is darker than the smoked visor) for bright days. The one bum note in the whole design is the peak. Frustratingly, it's too short to be properly effective. If the sun is lower than directly overhead, the peak does nothing to shield your eyes, and when riding into a low-sun scenario, it's as useless as

a non-peaked lid. Another inch would make a world of difference. Comfort is great (all day long), and it works well with glasses, too. I've also fitted the integrated comms unit (Smart HJC 11B). The integration is absolutely superb, the battery lasts ages, and it's effortless to use – my only grumble is that the speakers aren't loud enough at speed if you're an earplug wearer (which you really should be). But all in all, it's a great helmet and excellent value.

MCN rating★★★★★  
oxfordproducts.com

### PROS & CONS

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High spec, multiple visors, comms integration, styling
- Peak is too small, venting is subtle, comms too quiet



Comms integration is absolutely fantastic, but the speakers aren't loud enough at higher speeds



Drop-down sun visors aren't to all tastes, but this one works very well