

City slicker

New Shark lid is a must-have for urban riders

Shark Vancore, £219.99-£229.99

Colours: Matt or gloss white, matt or gloss black, matt green

Sizes: XS-XL

Helmets used to be so simple – open-face or full-face, goggles or visor and maybe stick a peak on it. Now the options are broken down into splinter groups like this Shark Vancore, which is a full-face with goggles and no peak (considered a motorcycling fashion crime from 1981-2009).

The Vancore is a development of the Raw, a popular model released by Shark last year, particularly welcomed by city riders. The Raw is an open-face lid with integral goggles and a detachable facemask, and remains in the range for 2014.

Where the Vancore differs is the addition of a fixed chinbar (the Shark is tested as a full-face), and the goggles are attached to the shell with a quick-release clip mounted towards the rear of each side.

The integral anti-fog goggle design means the goggles are shaped to perfectly fit the aperture in the front of the helmet, which is an aesthetic boost as well as improving comfort. Aftermarket goggles rarely fit so neatly inside a helmet, which can look odd and also leave one nostril being compressed by the ill-fitting plastic frame.

The helmet shell is made from thermoplastic with a large vent on top and the lining is made from material that includes bamboo fibres for a very soft feel.

White or grey goggle frames are available as optional accessories, with five different colours of lens also on the extras list. The helmet also comes with internal pre-formed channels for comfortable mounting of the French company's own Bluetooth communications system, Sharktooth.

■ www.nevis.uk.com



Available in three different urban-inspired shell colours in matt or gloss, and a choice of five goggle lens colours



Vancore looks like a motocross lid, but doesn't have provision for a peak



Buffalo Retro, £69.99

Colours: Black/white, black/blue, black/green, black/red

Sizes: S-XXXL

The Buffalo Retro is a textile jacket that is about as no-nonsense as its name. It's made from a tough outer shell, with a waterproof and breathable membrane inside and a removable, quilted thermal liner. It has CE-approved shoulder and elbow armour and a pocket to stow an approved back protector, which is available as an optional extra. There's a short connecting zip for trousers, to stop the jacket riding up, and there are five pockets, including three on the inside, where they're protected from water ingress.

■ www.thekeycollection.co.uk



OverBoard 20L Dry Tube bags, £29.99

OverBoard isn't strictly a motorcycle company, but its range of waterproof bags make for very good bike luggage if used right. These new 20-litre Dry Tubes are ideal for a couple of nights away. Stash your clobber in the roll-top bag to protect it from water and dirt, and use the carry handle closure as a way of lashing the bag to your rack or pillion seat. The bags are made from PVC tarpaulin and are available in a range of vivid colours which will surely appeal to younger riders, or those who like to stand out a little. At £30, the price is also cheaper than most dedicated motorcycling brands, too.

■ www.overboard.co.uk

Gecko clutch friction plates, from £18.50

Clutch friction plates should give plenty of service, but they're consumable items and are almost certain to give out in the end. When the friction material wears thin, clutch slip follows and then it's time to swap the plates before the heat build-up ruins the steel plates that alternate with the frictions in the clutch basket. This new range of friction plates from Gecko offers a pattern alternative to

the manufacturer's original spares. Named after the non-slip feet of the reptile, Gecko promises its plates are made to the same thickness as the original spec, with the same cork friction material, and will work with the original steel plates. Prices are typically around half that of original equipment friction plates, depending on the bike.

■ www.wemoto.com



Gecko friction plates are designed to be used with original steels and springs

HJC HELMETS

IS17

OXFORD
Essential Rider Equipment

For more information www.oxprod.com
tel: 01993 862300 info@oxprod.com

OXFORD
Essential Rider Equipment

KEY
DUAL UK DISTRIBUTION

NOW SHARP 5* RATED



Prices start at £139.99

