

'You can keep your flaps and knobs, I like it simple'

Sidi's new Mag-1 boots stand up to daily abuse without over complicating matters

Sidi Mag-1, £279.99

Tester Richard Newland, Senior Editor

Time tested 1400 miles/two months

What's good? The fit on Sidi's new Mag-1 is fantastic. The micrometric fasteners allow you to ratchet the three key fitting points to perfection, regardless of whether you're wearing them inside jeans, or outside leathers. I've not crashed in these boots but the protection appears extensive, well designed and integrated.

What really stands out is how light, compact, and simple they are. With no zips, Velcro, internal boot, you just slide your foot in, ratchet three fasteners, and go. You can keep your flaps and knobs, I like how straightforward these are. Most components are replaceable in case of damage, and the venting is superb.

What's not? They lack comfort when you've been in them for a whole day. The sole is adequate, but the hard, thin upper eventually begins to rub. If you've got wide feet or big calves you might struggle. I have no problem with them under jeans, but in leathers there's not enough adjustment in the calf, and I can only just get the upper micrometric band to hook in. The toe sliders appear to wear well, but be careful not to run them too low as the screw heads will grind away, making replacement tricky.

Contact www.feridax.com

Quality rating ★★★★★

Value rating ★★★★★



GET YOURS AT
MCNshop.com

DETAILS

1. Calf adjuster
Allows up to 15in diameter. Fine for most, but if you've got big calves try before you buy.

2. Toesliders
Wear well and are replaceable, but the fixings could easily be worn away.



QUICK BUYING ADVICE BOOTS

1 It's all in the sole
Virtually all boots now come in Euro sizes, which means no UK half-sizes. Think about adding a thicker insole to pad them out, or a thinner one to get a better fit. When trying on boots, wear the type of sock you're going to be riding in.

2 Chunky wins
As with bikes, fashion is moving away from race boots and heading towards off-road-style adventure boots. One dealer told us they sell two pairs of adventure boots for every one pair of equivalent-priced race boots.

3 Love puddles
Waterproof boots outsell non-waterproof boots by a large margin. Go for Gore-Tex membranes as they keep your feet dry without making them stink.

4 Short measures
Shorter, ankle-length boots are growing in popularity, but long ones obviously give greater protection and are also good at stopping knee armour from sliding too far down towards the ankles.

5 Slide rule
If you're a toe-scraping rider, keep an eye on slider wear and replace them before you wear through the screws that mount them or, worse still, the boot itself. If you're getting through loads of them, firms like Alpinestars make longer-lasting metal versions.
Richard Newland, 30k miles a year man



GET YOURS AT
MCNshop.com

AGV K3-SV helmet, £149.99-£179.99

Tester Tony Hoare
Time tested Three months/2000 miles
What's good? More practical than its looks might suggest. With a drop-down internal sun visor and provision for the optional AGV Bluetooth communications system (£119.99), the AGV K3-SV is comfortable with a soft lining that beds in with time, and isn't terribly heavy for a plastic-shelled lid. The inner visor mechanism is neat, but it's easier to drop it than to raise it, and the vents are highly effective, too.

What's not? The trim around the base is made from harder plastic and scuffs if put on a rough surface.

Contact www.agv.co.uk

Quality rating ★★★★★

Value rating ★★★★★



Astars Fastlane WP shoes, £119.99

Tester Michael Neeves
Time tested Seven months
What's good? These riding shoes are my new favourite piece of biking kit and I haven't worn conventional bike boots since I've had them, apart from when I'm in leathers. They're sturdy on the bike, but comfortable to wear casually and are fully waterproof. Astars know how to make footwear so the quality is right up there, and they're not too expensive.

What's not? I'd feel a bit too exposed if I was going to ride fast in these boots as they don't have the ankle and shin protection of conventional race-style boots.

Contact www.alpinestars.com

Quality rating ★★★★★

Value rating ★★★★★



Givi EA109 leg wallet, £19.40

Tester Andy Davidson
Time tested Three months/3500 miles
What's good? If you don't like the look or feel of a rucksack then a leg pouch is the answer. Two adjustable straps keep the bag in position, clipped in by two sturdy buckles. The bag is a perfect size, measuring 170x110mm, for storing your phone, wallet, keys and a chocolate bar or two.

What's not? While Givi offer a waterproof version for £23.53, this one isn't, which only makes it suitable for sunny Sunday rideouts, and riding through Spain.

Contact www.givi.co.uk

Quality rating ★★★★★

Value rating ★★★★★