

GEAR

TOP OF THE BOX

Hard luggage maestros Givi go to town on the **V56 Maxia 4 topbox**
£258.78

Giving a motorcycle topbox an aesthetic appeal must be a challenge that's up there with crocodile dentistry. But Italian specialists Givi are having a crack at making one of biking's most pragmatic purchases something more than a necessity.

Givi's Maxia series has been going since 1991, and this is the fourth incarnation of the topbox. Its capacity has been increased to 56 litres, which can comfortably accommodate two full-face helmets.

The outer edge has been strengthened to give more rigidity, and outer bands and reflectors have been redesigned to refresh the look.

The restyled lid also features a choice of finishes. The reflectors are available in either red or smoked form, while the inserts can be made from either carbon-look material or anodised aluminium. Boxes with the carbon-look inserts cost £258.78, with the aluminium inserts raising the price to £271.07.

Covers can be replaced to suit the bike or individual taste, with versions available in either white, grey, blue, red, neon yellow or replacements in the standard black. The covers cost an additional £34.80 (add an extra £6 for the yellow) on top of the box, so the total price including a colour-matched cover rises to £293.58 for the carbon-look insert version, or £305.87 with aluminium. www.givi.co.uk

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The number of different colours available for interchangeable covers, to suit your bike's colour (or to clash if that's the way you prefer it).



MCN SAYS

Tony Hoare, Consumer Editor

There's a stigma attached to the topbox that could go back to the frame-mounted Rickman efforts of the 1970s, but the newer designs have moved things on a long way. Givi have a huge hold on the market, with sub-brand Kappa providing the main competition.



THE RIVAL Kappa K53 Monokey

Givi have the top-end plastic luggage market largely wrapped up - rivals Kappa are owned by the same firm. Kappa's K53 has a little less space and fewer gadgets than the new Maxia, but costs at least £38 less. www.kappamoto.com

Givi's cavernous V56 topbox is now bigger, sturdier and more customisable than ever before



Three steps to load-lugging heaven

1 The first step is fitting a base for the topbox. On bikes that already have a rear rack, that means buying a Givi adaptor plate to convert it to suit the topbox that's being mounted. Prices depend on the bike, but it could be up to £150 for some machines.

2 Choosing the box is a matter of how much space you need. The Maxia 4 holds 56 litres and Givi promises it will store two full-face helmets. It uses the Givi Security Key system that's stronger than previous generations and can be matched so one key opens topbox and panniers.

3 Now choose the accessories. A foam backrest (£46.99) makes a pillion's life more comfortable, or if 56 litres of storage space isn't enough then a metal rack (£60.33) can be fitted to hold Givi's 30, 40 or 80-litre rollbags (£49.02-£83.46) with their dedicated straps (£9 a pair).