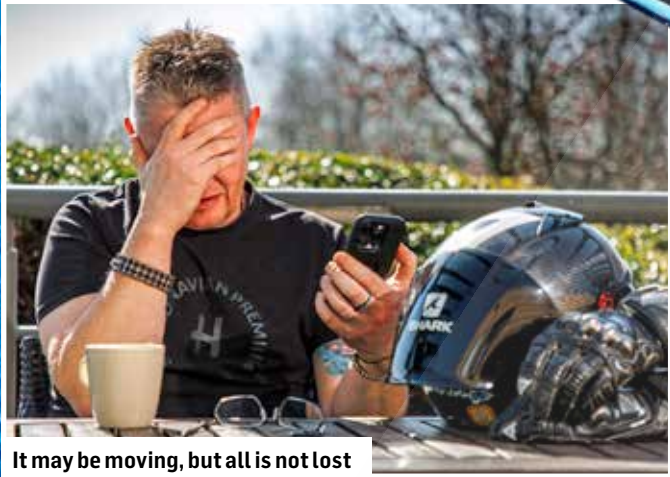


TRIED & TESTED

MCN STAFF RATE THEIR RIDING KIT

★★★★★

This dynamic duo keeps tabs on your ride



It may be moving, but all is not lost

Monimoto 9 Tracker £149 (Plus £36 subs)

‘Track and trace’



Tested by Justin Hayzelden for one year

The Monimoto 9 is the latest tracker in the Lithuanian security specialist’s range, and it’s been giving me peaceful nights for the past year, especially when I’ve been away touring around Europe or travelling for work.

The tracker is housed in a tough plastic case that measures just 93 x 38 x 15mm, and once secreted somewhere on your bike, could easily be mistaken for an ECU of some kind. Among the clever workings in this little box is a system that uses low-power wide-area network radio communication technology (LTE-M), which together with GPS and an integrated eSIM card, allows it to be identified and located via the 4G network. Set up is easy using a dedicated app that walks you through

the process, after which the system checks in every 24 hours to let you know that all is well.

The on-board battery is rechargeable and I’ve only had to top it up once, after around 10 months of use. A paired fob keeps the tracker dormant when in range (Monimoto say that’s up to 30 metres, but in practice it’s more like 10). If the on-board accelerometers detect movement without the fob present, the Monimoto kicks into action.

We set up a staged theft as part of an MCN investigation to see how quickly it reacted to unauthorised movements and if it was possible to track it on a journey by van to a secure lock up. It took little more than our ‘thief’ moving the bike upright to raise the kickstand for my phone to buzz with an alert, and in less than a minute I received a call from the tracker to confirm it was moving, and

that GPS coordinates were available.

Assuming I didn’t have time to run out and catch them in the act, we let the operation play out. Once it was loaded in a van the GPS accuracy dropped off to an approximation, roughly within a 100-metre radius, with the app pinging an update every two to three minutes and displaying location on a real-time map. As soon as the bike was unloaded I was able to pinpoint its position again, but our final act was to have it locked in a steel shipping container and without any signal escaping it eventually disappeared from the network.

Now that may appear that we’d lost our pride and joy, but stolen bikes are often just moved somewhere nearby first, to see if they attract any heat, so as long as there’s phone signal it should be traceable.

There are more sophisticated tracker services that use human

controllers to monitor the situation, along with RF technology to locate machines even when they’re properly hidden away, but the Monimoto 9 offers just enough peace of mind so that, once alerted, at least some action can be taken. Two months free subscription is included, after which it’s a very reasonable £36 per year.

MCN rating★★★★★
www.monimoto.com

PROS & CONS

- +

Nondescript casing is easy to mount discreetly. Long battery life for both tracker and fob, has proved impervious to dust and water so far
- Requires connection to a 4G network for its signal to be tracked



A live map helps pinpoint location



Updates ping every two to three minutes with the bike on the move