

TRIED & TESTED

MCN STAFF RATE THEIR RIDING KIT

★★★★★



Comes with a set of goggles and works brilliantly in the dirt



Premium looks and performance to match, with a self-tinting visor!

6 months ON TEST

Leatt Helmet Kit ADV 8.5 £479

# ‘Innovative and excellent’



**Tested by Steve Herbert-Mattick for 2000 miles**

The ADV 8.5 is a brand-new, composite fibre adventure touring helmet from off-road protection specialists, Leatt. With a removable peak and goggles, it offers four different configurations and uses. And it's brilliant.

I started using it at the beginning of the year, when I was frequently riding a Honda Africa Twin. On a big adventure bike, you'll enjoy a near uninterrupted view from the huge visor aperture which, even in freezing temperatures, never mists thanks to the Pinlock (included).

This is also the first time I've used a Photochromatic visor. Working like reactive lenses in glasses, it darkens automatically in bright light and is a revelation. No more switching visors,

no more compromised shell/EPS designs to house a drop-down sun visor, and no additional visor edges fiddling with your peripheral vision. Night, day, low winter or high summer sun, it works perfectly 100% of the time. The only slight glitch is if you have the visor up at all, it'll darken in spots where sunlight gets through the holes in the peak. That clears when you put the visor down though.

Ventilation is excellent, but as with most adventure lids the top vents can be hard to access on the move.

Fastened with a good old reliable double D-ring, it's fantastically stable. The smooth shell design and slotted peak slip through the air easily, even since switching to my 2025 longterm test bike, Royal Enfield's Bear 650 which is small and devoid of any wind protection. Other adventure helmets I've used can

catch the wind when you turn your head, or even yank it clean backwards with the draft from an oncoming lorry but not so with the 8.5.

This adds to it being a very quiet helmet, again especially impressive for an adventure lid. Fitting my bluetooth headset was easy but the only thing to note came from reinstalling the cheek pads, as they are harder than expected because it's difficult to slide the clips into place.

While removing the visor is a doddle, one thing I really like about the Leatt is you can close the visor even when using Leatt's superb Velocity 4.5 goggles (included for free in the box). So should you be switching between road and dirt sections on your ride you've got all bases covered.

I recently spent a day learning to ride flat track at Enfield's slide

school, with six hours of motorwaying there and back. The Adv 8.5 performed perfectly all day in both environments – quiet on the road, breezy and breathable on track.

ECE 22.06 certified, it has Leatt's 360° Turbine Technology liner to reduce brain acceleration/rotation on impact. If you crash and wreck the lid within three years they will give you 40% off a new one. It rivals the best from more familiar brands.

**MCN rating** ★★★★★ [moto.leatt.uk](https://www.moto.leatt.uk)

PROS & CONS

+

Photochromic visor, comfort, stability, features

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It's arguably worth it, but nearly £500 is a lot of money



Notch keeps the headset cable secure



Liner reduces brain injury in impacts