



It's a comfortably unassuming lid

LS2 Challenger II £239.99

Sparkling practicality



Tested by Tommy Begley for one month

I've been struggling along of late with woefully inappropriate helmets for my current riding needs, which are largely long, cold, wet stretches. So, when this very sensible, do-it-all lid came up to test, I jumped at the chance. It's a bit tight going over the ears, but once I'm in, it swaddles my

head like a marshmallow pillow, with the neck roll tucking right under my jaw, keeping far more road noise out than I've experienced in the past. This same neck roll can foul on the collar of my jacket a bit, though, which has meant a few stiff lifesaver checks. In XL, it comes in a bit heavy at around 1550g, but it really doesn't feel weighty when on. The Pinlock/breath deflector combination does a great job of

keeping the lid fog-free, and it is packed with vents on the outside and massive airflow gullies on the inside, so I have no doubt it'll keep me cool. My biggest bugbear so far, and it's a very subjective one, is the ratchet strap system. With every non-D-ring lid I've tried on so far, it cuts into my Adam's apple, which is an utterly unpleasant sensation.

MCN rating ★★★★★
www.ls2helmets.com

350 miles ON TEST

A-stars Supertech M10 £599.99

'My go-to for off-roading'



Tested by Carl Stevens for 2000 miles

The Supertech M10 (or S-M10) is Alpinestars' premium motocross offering, and it's been so effective that it's now my go-to lid for adventure bikes too.

The S-M10 exceeds many elements of ECE 22.06 testing, but thanks to the carbon-aramid shell and the materials used it's incredibly light at just 1260g in medium.

The angle and height of the liners can be adjusted to achieve an optimum fit, and even after spending days in the helmet I've found it to be incredibly comfortable with no pressure points.

The ventilation is great with 28 vents, although this makes the S-M10 unsuitable for longer stints



Carl in his happy place

8 months ON TEST

on really cold days. Also, due to its nature of being a motocross helmet, it is noisier than an adventure equivalent, especially at motorway speeds.

However, even with the sizeable peak, the aerodynamic qualities are impressive, the range of visibility is

huge and it's more than capable of tackling road mileage to get to a local lane, or off-road section.

Although it's on the pricier end of the spectrum, the build quality, fit and finish have not disappointed.

MCN rating ★★★★★
www.alpinestars.com

Shark Skwal Cup £229.99

Spoiler alert!



Tested by Nye Davis for two months

Balancing the tasks required of a jack of all trades in the helmet

world is no mean feat. Shark's newest lid, the Skwal Cup, certainly takes a strong stab at the job – but it's by no means perfect.

I'll be honest, when I first got my hands on the Cup, my initial reaction was to try to figure out who and what this new-model helmet has actually been made for.

Shark say their latest creation has been designed for: "motorcyclists who approach each ride as a moment of precision, fluidity, and personal expression," which frankly leaves me none the wiser when it comes to understanding what the use case is here. Perhaps it was written by AI. Thankfully, after a thousand-or-so miles of use, I have answered this question myself.

Looks-wise, the Cup takes clear inspiration from the track-focused and considerably more expensive Aeron GP, with a suitably racy rear spoiler sticking out the back.

Two months ON TEST



A stealthy look apart from the wing

Yet, despite the aesthetics, the Skwal Cup feels far more sports-touring than outright sports.

It's heavier than most dedicated track lids and with ventilation levels better suited to keeping you warm in winter than cool on track, I'd say the overall package is worth a look more so for those wanting to rack up

road miles rather than for those who regularly go hunting for apexes.

At a penny under £230 (more for jazzy coloured versions), it's hard to grumble about the slight identity crisis the Skwal Cup has going on. You get all the usual sports-touring-spec handy features, including a drop-down sun visor and pinlock, combining to produce a lid that would suffice for everything from mid-week commutes to weekend scratching, and even occasional track outings.

MCN rating ★★★★★
www.nevis.uk.com

22 months ON TEST

Klim Krios Pro £600

Super light and plush protection



Tested by Michael Guy for three years

Klim's flagship adventure helmet is a quality piece of kit. The carbon-fibre and resin shell makes it light, so light in fact that it takes me

by surprise every time. Other key features include a plush lining which makes it feel more like a premium race helmet rather than a more hardy adventure or off-road helmet. It has Klim's magnetic Fid-lock strap closure which is good once you get used to it. It also has photochromatic visor, which is nice but doesn't react quickly enough to rapid changes of light.

MCN rating ★★★★★
www.klim.com

3 years ON TEST



Shoei X-SPR Pro £819.99

Title-winning formula



Tested by Tom Willard for 7000 miles

When picturing an out-and-out race lid, you might visualise something uncompromising and hard-edged, but the Shoei X-SPR Pro is neither of those things. It's comfortable and secure with a fit-adjustable lining and a broad field-of-view.

There are circular cut-outs inside for intercom speakers and it has kept me cool at road-legal speeds in British summers. It's a do-it-all FIM homologated racing helmet that's just as at home on the road as it is on track.

MCN rating ★★★★★
www.shoieassured.co.uk