

GEAR

A LID WITH LIGHTS

As nights draw in, new-for-2015 Shark could brighten up your ride **Shark Skwal LED helmet £199.99**

Shark have released a swathe of new colours on their innovative Skwal sports-touring helmet, which features a series of LEDs to boost visibility on gloomy days and dark night rides.

The Skwal has been around since Spring, but has taken its time to filter into dealers, with new colours including the orange/black Spinax and neon yellow/black Instinct.

The Skwal sits in the highly competitive £200 price bracket and relies on a mixture of geekery and safety-consciousness for its appeal. The LED strips sit around the vents at the chin, forehead and crown to make the lid stand out.

The lights are powered by a rechargeable battery, with a charging post sitting inside the comfort lining around the base of the helmet.

Otherwise, the helmet is a sports-touring effort that probably leans more towards touring than sports. It has a thermoplastic shell and there's an internal sun visor as well as a Pinlock MaxVision anti-mist insert, which blocks the rider's view less than a regular Pinlock insert.

The main visor has a quick-change system and the strap fastens using a micrometric buckle arrangement for speedier getaways. The comfort lining can be taken out and washed to keep it fresh after warm summer rides.

The seven new colourschemes released recently take the total available options up to 20, and the size range is XS-XL.

■ www.nevis.uk.com



Charging connector lives in the Shark's comfort lining



THE RIVAL HJCFG-ST

Price: £179.99-£199.99

Similar spec to the Skwal, apart from the lights (and the strap is D-ring rather than micrometric). Cash that would have gone on lights pays for a fibreglass shell instead.
www.oxprod.com



MCN SAYS

Tony Hoare, Consumer Editor

High-viz kit has been one of the biggest trends of recent years and now our heads are the latest part of the body to be adorned with Christmas lights. Everything about the Skwal seems to be aimed at the year-round commuter - and extra lights are a decent addition.

Three key facts about the Skwal

1 The lights are run by a small rechargeable battery that can be plugged into a power source without removing it from the helmet. The LEDs will last five to eight hours from each full charge and can be set to constant or flashing lights at the touch of a button.

2 The visor is Shark's Autoseal system, which has wider bands of material at the top and bottom for a more secure seal. It changes by tilting the visor and pulling it clear of the mounting system at the sides of the shell. Uses the impressive Pinlock MaxVision insert.

3 The lining has an extra ridge around the base that is designed to sit below the rider's jaw, to resist lift at speed and also keep down noise inside the lid. There's a groove so riders who wear specs won't have the spec arms pressed into their temples and there are recesses for speakers.

Who doesn't want a light-up helmet? The idea is to boost road safety in low light

