

THE MCN SHOWCASE

# ESSENTIAL BIKE SECURITY

MCN staffers test the latest motorcycle locks and trackers

- Ease of use assessed
- Design, construction and peace of mind rated
- Tested for between six months and more than two years

Locked up and ready to sound the alarm

18 months ON TEST

**Oxford Alpha XA14 alarm disc lock £89.99**

## 'Scuffed but still going strong'



**Tested by Dan Sutherland for 18 months**

I use this Oxford Alpha XA14 alarmed disc lock every day. It sits on the discs of bikes in my garage overnight and slips into the front pocket of any of my rucksacks to then be applied wherever I stop – be that the office, a bike meet, the local café, or even the supermarket.

As you can see from the photos, it's had a hard life – it's been subjected to around 18 months of use in all conditions including full days in the rain outside work, as well as endless accidental drops when removing it from brake discs.

Despite the paint scuffs, I've never once had to charge the battery, and the key has never got stuck in the mechanism. I mainly use it on my

Yamaha R9 long-termers' 320mm front rotors but have had no issue applying it to a wide range of both personal and test machines during our time together.

Featuring a forged stainless steel construction, the Alpha feels like it could take a hefty whack without falling apart – aided further by a 14mm locking pin. I feel more confident parking my bike knowing that it's attached – especially when you also consider the 110dB motion-activated siren, which kicks in following a few warning bleeps when tampered with.

This lock may only be small, but when that alarm goes off, you certainly know about it. The Alpha kicks out an uncomfortably loud high-pitched note that would likely deter many crims from going any further in their theft attempt.

The siren is activated when locking with the key. Lock it with a single 'bleep' and the system is primed. A lock with two bleeps means the siren won't go off.

I always lock mine with the alarm primed, but that's also meant a couple of annoying activations in the garage when I've caught the bike's front wheel or handlebar when sliding past.

Oxford also supply an elasticated warning cord to attach to the lock and your bars to stop you riding off with it still in place. I personally don't tend to use this, to help save a little extra space in my bag, and I cross my fingers that I'll never forget to remove the lock!

I have also, rather foolishly, locked the mechanism and put the Alpha in my bag for a journey, only for the alarm to start going off moments

later down the high street. Make sure you don't do this.

Although retailing for £89.99, some vendors such as Sportsbikeshop have it listed for £49.95, which I think is cracking value for money.

Not only tough, but it also meets the Sold Secure Gold standard for security and is available in a choice of yellow or black. The USB cable to recharge the device is included in the box, too.

**MCN rating ★★★★★**  
[www.oxfordproducts.com](http://www.oxfordproducts.com)

### PROS & CONS

- + Sturdy protection, clean locking mechanism
- External paint lost easily in a drop



No issues fitting it to any size rotor



Scuffed paint is proof of a hard life