

THE MCN SHOWCASE

WATERPROOF  
RIDING  
BOOTS

Sporty, touring or retro... these should keep you dry and protected

Great price and they match the R7's livery too

Richa Blade boots £129.99

'Faultless footwear for road and track'

Tested by Gareth Evans over 3000 miles and four trackdays

These boots have served me well so far this year. Together we've weathered some impressive weather; most notably massive thunderstorms, both on road and on track. I can confirm Richa's claim that they're 100% waterproof. At one point I found myself standing in the pitlane at Brands Hatch with water sloshing over my feet as it ran down the pitlane. Not a drop made it inside.

But more than that, I love how comfy they are considering their rigidity, which contributes to their protective capabilities. Naturally they are CE-approved.

There's bracing for your calf, armour for your shin and both for your heel, plus removable toe sliders (that I've touched down a few times while working on body positioning on track) and an extra padded patch for shifting gear, which was welcome given that the quickshifter on my long-term test R7 needs a bit of a kick to operate at times.

Despite their racy looks, they're pretty flexible for use off the bike (although none of my riding jeans fit around them so I've had some weird looks when pulling up at work – but they do go over my leathers for track use) and they're well ventilated too via small metal mesh panels in the heel and shin, which helped in the blazing sunshine of a trackday at Donington Park in June.

I've sweated rather a lot into these boots during the year, and they still smell brand new. That's presumably thanks to the breathable Hipora waterproof membrane.

The soles have treaded rubber grip, which helps on the pegs and the ground. Plus in this colour scheme they match Yamaha's 60th Anniversary Edition Speed Block livery my R7. You've got a choice of four other hues if this one doesn't work.

My only criticism is that they're fairly tight around my calves and ankles, and while they remain solidly constructed to date, with lovely double stitching all around the boot to secure the leather, I'm a little concerned the fastening

zip is getting a hard time as the fit means I put pressure on it to do the boots up.

Also, the liner gets trapped in the zip fastening occasionally, and coupled with the force I need to get them on in the first place, it feels like this could lead to a point of failure in as the miles build further.

But with that said, right now they're performing flawlessly after 3000 miles plus a string of trackdays on the Yamaha and I'm a happy camper.

Quality ★★★★★  
Value ★★★★★

PROS & CONS

- + Comfortable, waterproof and feel reassuringly protective
- Bit tight on the calf and the lining can snag in the fastening zip

- Fit and comfort rated
- Design, construction and CE scores rated
- Waterproofing tested with all-weather riding

RATINGS

Exceptional ★★★★★ Very good ★★★★  
Good ★★★ Average ★★  
Poor ★



Gareth's been having fun on track



Take care not to snag the lining