



Light, with a fit that's just right

A choice of linings helps to get this helmet fitting perfectly

SCORPION EXO-2000 AIR

■ £350 www.tranam.com

I'M IN THE fortunate position of having a couple of crash helmets to use, but this Scorpion has quickly become my default lid — above some much pricier models.

It's a close-fitting lid, with a tri-composite shell, and comes with 'Airfit' — pump-up cheekpads. Buyers also get to choose between two different linings: the now-standard comfort lining; or a thicker and slightly firmer race lining. There are loads of colour schemes to choose from, but it's almost a fact that black-on-black is best.

The comfort lining does exactly what it says, but I've been almost exclusively using the race lining for my time with it. The lid itself fits me perfectly and the lining helps to make it sit firmly in position. Even high-speed lifesavers won't budge it.

It's completely comfortable for the vast majority of my riding and even though it has the inflatable cheekpad bladders to ensure "a perfect fit", the snug race lining has made that feature redundant for me.



Pump-up cheekpads haven't proven necessary, as the EXO-2000 fits very well

Finishing touches like the titanium double-D ring fastener go to show that huge attention has been paid to making this lid as light as possible. And with the EXO-2000's weight a claimed 1280g, I'd say they've done alright in that respect.

There's only really one area in which I can criticise it, and that's the ventilation. Unless you're at race speeds, the cool-air circulation isn't great. It's tolerable, but definitely an area for improvement. **LS**



KNOX ORSA GLOVES

■ £80 www.planet-knox.com

WHAT'S UP WITH my hands? Do I have the smallest thumbs in history? I can't seem to get a pair of gloves to fit. Maybe I'm fussy, but I know I'm not the only one out there.

These Knox Orsa gloves are no exception in the thumb department, but they more than make up for it everywhere else. They fit really snugly and are very comfortable on the hands and fingers. I like the wrist closure system, as they can be tightened with as much or as little force as you dial in yourself, and there's no annoying Velcro sticking to everything. I don't have to wrestle with jacket cuffs to get them to fit either, which helps me not be the last to get ready to go every time! **CB**



LINDSTRANDS RAIN JACKET

■ £59 www.jofama.se

VERY SIMPLE AND very effective, but no use when the weather is doing anything other than raining, because it's completely unventilated and therefore quick to get hot and sweaty when the sun comes out. It's well made and there's not much to it, so it folds up small and weighs next to nothing, making it easy to carry in the pocket of a rucksack. As there's nothing fancy about it, there's nothing to snag or tangle when you're putting it on over a jacket in a hurry at the roadside. And it dries quickly. When you're off the bike, the built-in hood is useful; when you're on the bike, it tucks away unobtrusively. **CO**