

QUICK KIT TESTS

FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF THE LATEST PRODUCTS BY RIDE'S EXPERT TEAM

Riser phone app **£Free**

riserapp.com, App Store (Apple iOS), Google Play (Android)

THIS PHONE APP will log your trips so you can share the best bits – or if you don't have any friends, it will connect you with people and share with them. It offers to show great roads near you but doesn't have any navigational functions to help you ride them. It doesn't know any of the great roads near me – or indeed in the UK (maybe

that will change as the user base grows). It offers a basic weather forecast and has a 'news feed' to be filled with stuff from the developers and, presumably eventually, other users. It seems to function okay but – and maybe I'm just being old – I don't see the point. I don't need an app to tell me where I've been. Perhaps younger riders would get more out of it. **SIMON WEIR**



SW Motech Legend Gear Messenger Bag

£158.99

www.motohaus.com

THIS IS A great bag... if you want a bag like this. It's a well-finished waterproof messenger bag, the inner compartment sealing with a roll top and divided to hold a laptop, with internal and external pockets. In essence, it's a briefcase with a shoulder strap.

The system of straps on the outside lets you add extra bags (£41 for the LA2, shown). You can use the optional waist-strap to stop it moving on your back or buy extra straps (£21) to turn it into a tailpack. This is brilliant for my commute, making the Z1000SX slimmer than with its panniers. However, that pushes the price up to more than £200 – a lot of money for a bag that isn't flexible enough to use as touring luggage. **sw**



► Messenger bag makes an excellent tailpack



◀ Additional straps fix it to the seat

Arai Chaser-X **£469.99**

www.whyarai.co.uk

ARAI'S MIDRANGE CHASER has been updated into this 2017 Chaser-X, with a new shell shape plus the venting system and visor lock from the flagship RX-7V. These upgrades work well – the central top vent is effective and easy to work, while the visor lock (with its pleasingly sprung release lever) is glove-friendly too. It's a solid, obviously well-made lid with an all-day comfortable lining, deep paint and sturdy build quality. Perhaps too sturdy – this Large weighs 1600g, which is on the heavy side.

A clear visor and the excellent Max Vision Pinlock anti-mist insert are included in the box. I'm not sold on the visor change system, however. You push two levers to pop the sidepods off, which dangle from threads like plastic earrings. It's quick to get the visor off but fiddly to reinstall – not nearly as slick or intuitive as other helmets' setups.

Plain colours are £399.99, paintschemes (like this 'Shaped' pattern) are £469.99 and the two Edwards replicas are £499.99. It's a good lid, but at this price it should be exceptional – especially when so many great helmets cost less. **MARTIN FITZ-GIBBONS**

