

The Alpinestars SMX Plus v2 is expensive, but that's the cost of ultimate protection and waterproofing.

▼ **Outside zip**
is a unique and
worthwhile
feature



RECOMMENDED

BEST FOR QUALITY

Time until water ingress

Spray test No ingress

Immersion test	No ingress
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Fit/comfort



Build quality



Confidence



Waterproofing



Value



Total 42/50

Upper Synthetic

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Lining Gore-Tex membrane

Closure Zip and ratchet

Inner boot ✖

Ankle bracing ✓

Ankle armour

Shin armour

Heel armour

Toe slider ✓

Weight (pair) 1.99kg

Height 310mm

CE Rating 2-2-2-1

Alpinestars SMX Plus v2 £449.99

Look great, waterproof, but not cheap

gb.alpinestars.com

Alpinestars' SMX Plus v2 has a quality feel and features lots of logos, including a Gore-Tex badge.

The zip is on the outside of the boot (so it's not zipping up over the ankle) and the SMX has the usual Alpinestars ratchet fastener at the top instead of Velcro flaps.

A hard plastic heel and ankle brace reaches up the back of the boot, and is articulated in three places. The removable plastic toe slider is attached with a grub screw, but the SMX also has a removable heel plate.

Inside, a Supertech-style drawstring system for the liner seems unnecessary and fiddly. The membrane reaches to 80mm of the boot top, 230mm from the floor.

The SMX is a bit fiddly to get into thanks to the drawstring liner, but once on it feels snug. There is room to wiggle toes, but it's tight just above the outside of the ankle. The zip fastens easily, and the ratchet top ensures a tight fit at the boot rim.

The boots are comfy to walk in with support from

the shin – it feels as if the boot is helping you take the next step. The footfall is it's a bit clippity-clop from heel to toe, so it's not a natural walk.

On the bike the boot feels secure and protective, with good grip on the pegs and levers, but it's so stiff across the metatarsal – it doesn't offer much flex or feel.

There's a big gap between the rim of boot and the shin. But despite this, in the waterproof tests there's no water ingress after the spraying or after five minutes of submersion.

VERDICT

Great combination of protection and comfort, and totally waterproof - but all that comes at a price.

'Secure and protective, with good grip on pegs'