

**TRIED & TESTED**  
MCN STAFF RATE THEIR RIDING KIT  
★★★★★

SIX MONTHS

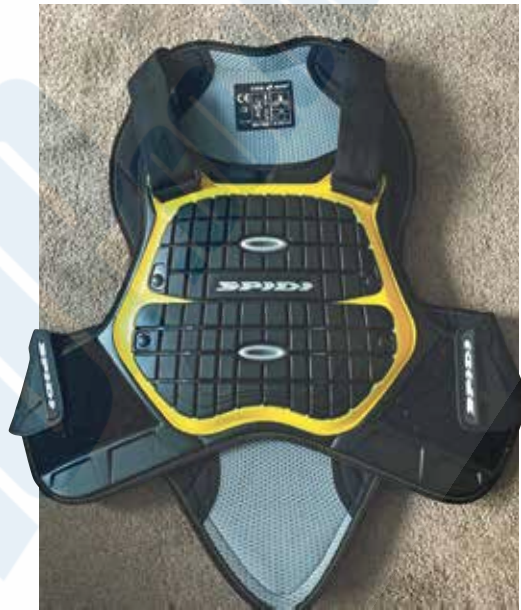
Shark Spartan GT Carbon £479.99

# ‘It’s a superbly versatile helmet’

**Tested by Richard Newland for six months, 2000 miles**  
Having been an Arai wearer all my life, testing a Shark was a leap of faith. I'm glad I did it, though. This is now my third, having worn their Race-R and Spartan Carbon. I picked the Spartan GT Carbon as I wanted a road helmet that was plush, quiet and well-spec'd – and it ticks all those boxes. It's just as sporty as the Race-R, but with fewer vents to make drafts and noise. It's still well vented though, with a chin, brow and twin exhaust vents (which all shut convincingly), and a liner that aids airflow rather than trapping it. Talking of the liner, it's plush, soft and comfortable, but also durable – and removable/washable, and boasts

quick-release tabs to help paramedics remove it more easily. At 1540g (for my XL/62) it's not the lightest, but it feels much lighter. The drop-down sun visor action is good, and crucially the aperture coverage is excellent. Rated SHARP 4-stars, it's not quite 'the best', but it's still a superbly protective and classy helmet with a double-D fastener and a brilliant visor mechanism.  
**Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★**  
[www.nevis.uk.com](http://www.nevis.uk.com)

- PROS & CONS
- + Superb fit, quality, design and visor change system
  - It's pricey (but worth it) and not the lightest GT lid



## ‘Like a warming and safe hug’

**Tested by Dan Sutherland for three months, 1400 miles**  
There's no denying the Defender is an expensive item, but it's been nothing short of excellent thus far. With a CE Level 2 safety rating and plenty of adjustment, I have comfortably worn it under bulky winter textile jackets and tight-fitting leather one-piece suits – each time it provides a reassuring hug and some much-needed additional warmth in cooler conditions. Although a bit of a fiddle to tuck inside my leathers without assistance, once it's in, it sits just right. I feel naked without it when I wear jackets with built-in back armour and the only drawback is you sometimes catch the waist strap with your arm during fastening, which can undo it. With ventilation for cooling in the warmer months, it will be seeing plenty more action throughout the year and is a worthy investment for your wardrobe.  
**Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★**  
[www.feridax.com](http://www.feridax.com)

1400 MILES

Motul C4 chain lube  
£4.49 (100ml)

**Tested by Jordan Gibbons for 14 months**  
At just 100ml, this chain lube is about a quarter of the size of a typical spray bottle of chain lube. That makes it perfect for sticking in a backpack. Used for little top-ups, it's lasted me over a year and has become a travel staple along with ear plugs and a visor wipe. As a chain lube it does a spot-on job too – not too heavy but doesn't wash off at the first sign of rain.  
**Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★**  
[www.moto-direct.com](http://www.moto-direct.com)

