

Weighing in at 15kg this is very serious kit

**Oxford Beast lock £159.99
and 1.5m chain £159.99**

'It's a proper beast of a lock'

Tested by Richard Newland for 11 months



The trend for heavyweight locks built to meet the Sold Secure Motorcycle Diamond standard, has resulted in some monstrous products and Oxford's Beast is one of them. At over 15kg this is home security only. The fat barrel lock weighs 3.6kg, boasts a 30mm hardened locking pin, measures 12.5cm by almost 9cm and would make for an effective sledgehammer if you stuck a handle on it. Meanwhile, the 1.5m chain (there is a 2m option at £229.99) weighs 12kg and uses 22mm links. As well as being Sold Secure Diamond rated, it gets an ART 5 ranking for its ability to resist attack and is rated as Secured By Design.

The sheer bulk means it won't work at all with some bikes and if you have wire spoked wheels you may not be able to get the chain through the gaps. But, physical demands aside, it's a serious deterrent – and well worth the investment if you can make its size work with your bike.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.oxfordproducts.com

11 MONTHS

Hefty locking pin adds to the secure feel

Double-D strap and the liner is washable too

The integrated visor means no goggles needed



Shoei Self-tinting visor £182.99

'It's three in one'

Tested by Jim Moore for two months



Developed with optics experts Transitions, it darkens depending on the intensity of sunlight. As such it's three visors in one – clear in low light, tinted in daylight and dark tint in bright conditions, plus it's Pinlock compatible. So now, I no longer have to carry a clear visor for my NXR-2 if I plan to be back after dark. Shoei say the visor transitions from clear to dark in around 40s... and that matches my experience. Early impressions are very positive. But there is a catch. The price. More than £180 is a lot to swallow for a single visor but when you consider the cost of buying a clear, tinted and dark visor (typically £30-£50 each) £180 is a little easier to justify.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.shoei-europe.com

1000 MILES

'Made for a USA road trip'

Tested by Saffron Wilson for 4400 miles/ four months



Before I tested this helmet, I'd never worn an open-face. But, since I was touring America in the middle of summer, I opted to give it a go. The lack of a chin bar meant I felt a little exposed, but this sensation quickly disappears when you're on the ride. Plus, the J-0's composite fibreglass shell is made from the same blend of fibres Shoei uses on its top-spec racing helmets and it features the same kind of multi-density EPS. I think it's a classic and understated

design, particularly its low-profile shell shape, as some other open-face helmets can give you a 'lightbulb head'. The clear visor with its three-levels of closure meant I didn't have to invest in goggles and gives that extra bit of protection from the wind – as well as being vital in the rain! I also like that the J-0 has a double-D ring chin strap. There's no drop-down sun visor but the fit is comfy enough for me to be able to pop on a pair of sunnies. It is fabulous in warm weather and would be great for city riding too.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.shoei-europe.com



R&G rear paddock stand £86.99 (+£8 delivery)

'Stable and easy to use'

Tested by Michael Guy for 4 months



Having the means to elevate the rear of your bike is a must for chain-lubing, general maintenance and tyre changes. For bikes that aren't fitted with a centrestand, having a good paddock stand is essential.

British company R&G have been around for years and have a reputation for designing and selling truly fit-for-purpose products and this rear paddock stand is no exception.

First, it comes flat-packed which means it can be posted to you directly at a cost of just £8 for delivery. It's easy to assemble but feels completely 'together' once built. It also strikes a reassuring balance between being sturdy without weighing a tonne, meaning it's easy to man-handle into place with one hand while you keep your bike upright with the other.

This stand is universal and will fit practically any model of twin-sided swingarm bike thanks to its easily adjustable hooks that are designed to work with regular bobbins which can be screwed into your bike's swingarm.

Getting your bike up on the stand and the rear wheel off the ground is simple due to the four high quality castors which help to take the weight. And once up on the stand you'll have zero concerns about the stability of your pride and joy meaning that, whether you're simply oiling the chain or removing the whole rear wheel you can be confident your bike will stay upright.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.rg-racing.com



Sturdy wheels make for easy operation