

TRIED & TESTED

MCN STAFF RATE THEIR RIDING KIT

★★★★★

Navigation has been spotted on

16,000 miles ONTEST



Pair it with your phone and you're good to go



Garmin Zumo XT2 £529.99

'Navigation par excellence'



Tested by Justin Hayzelden for 14 months

The Zumo XT2 is a dedicated satnav with a suite of useful route-based information at a touch of its colourful 6in screen. I've been using it over the past year to guide me on more than 16,000 miles of adventures, from traffic avoidance on the daily commute to exploring green lanes and plotting Euro excursions.

Garmin include everything in the box for a simple bolt-on set up, but I've since upgraded to a Touratech GPS bracket (£76.16) and lockable mount (£126.98), which places the XT2 above the OE instruments 'nav tower style' on the Harley-Davidson Pan America.

The XT2 has been designed to work with Garmin's Tread smartphone app, and although it can be used as a standalone unit, this is the best way to get the most from it. Pairing is as simple as making a Bluetooth connection, after which phone and satnav automatically

hook up and sync whenever they're in range.

Navigation accuracy is very good, whether it's for where you're going, where you are, or for any of the real-time nav data that can be displayed on the screen. I particularly like the 'time to next turn' countdown, which has proved invaluable on more complex routes.

The only fly in the ointment has been a failure of the touchscreen, which at around 8500 miles became increasingly resistant to my finger taps. Garmin's one-year warranty covered the failure without quibble, however it's left me with a slight nagging doubt over the longevity of this crucial finger-friendly feature.

Because it has a dedicated function, the XT2 offers significant advantages over strapping a smartphone to your bike – all the information you could want for touring, from weather and traffic data to comfort break stops and Trip Advisor-rated hosteleries, not to mention navigation, is easily accessible and clearly displayed on its super-bright screen.

It's also housed in a highly protective casing, so although it relies on a phone for many of the functions, you can keep your mobile tucked away somewhere safe.

The Zumo XT2 has been a reliable, helpful and knowledgeable companion on both road and trail, and has become an essential part of my kit. Yes £529.99 is a significant outlay, but given the accuracy of navigation, wealth of information and ease of use, it's certainly worth the money in my book.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
garmin.com

PROS & CONS

- +** Simple to operate, packed full of information, rugged construction
- Touchscreen can be temperamental

It comes with mounts but we've been using kit from Touratech for extra security



Weather at your destination? Easy...