

THE MCN SHOWCASE

ALL-WEATHER TOURING BOOTS

Rugged options built for rain, shine and serious miles

3200 miles ON TEST

Low price, mid-rise – these boots tick all the boxes

- Fit and comfort rated
- Design, construction and CE scores rated
- Worn in all weather conditions



RST Axiom Mid CE Waterproof boots £89.99

‘Kicking above their price tag’



Tested by Emma Franklin for eight months

The Axiom is RST's entry-level range meaning this mid-height touring boot is the cheapest footwear available from the British kit brand. They're made from synthetic leather backed up with a waterproof-breathable membrane, and have a wide opening with a full Velcro closure, making them easy to get on and off.

The beauty of mid-height boots like these is that they offer some shin protection for those riders who struggle with finding full-length boots to fit nicely around their calves or who dislike having their lower leg constricted.

With the protective armour at the shin and ankles being very soft, they're prodigiously comfortable both on and off the bike, to the point where they don't actually feel like biking footwear. Plus there's more foot feel-good generated via the insole, which is sumptuously thick and makes them very plush to walk

around in, as well as adding an extra insulating layer to protect you from the cold.

Despite being shorter than regular motorcycle boots, the Axioms are CE certified as having shin protection. The boots also meet the higher Level 2 for transverse rigidity (crushing) thanks to their internal toe box, and meet the upper level for impact cutting protection. However, the synthetic uppers pass at just Level 1 for abrasion resistance.

The Axioms are brilliantly made and feel much more expensive than their price would suggest. The faux leather upper is tough, which resulted in a fairly stiff feeling for the first couple of wears. After about 200 miles of use they broke in, but did so while retaining their integrity, which means that although they now feel comfortable, they've kept that cossetting feeling of security around the ankle. After 3000 miles they literally still look like new, plus all the stitching and Velcro still functions as it should.

RST's Sinaqua waterproof/breathable membrane has remained reliable during this time, keeping feet dry and warm during autumn and winter rides, doubly impressive in light of the recent deluges we've had to endure. Although the Sinaqua works well at keeping rain out, I did find their breathability to be lacking for mid-summer riding – the fabric concertinaed panel down the front of the boot unfortunately doesn't provide quite enough ventilation for hot weather.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.rst-moto.com

PROS & CONS

- + Top value, excellent comfort and protection
- Not the most stylish of boots. Warm on hotter rides

Level 2 for crushing but Level 1 for abrasion. WR indicates they keep rain out



Chunky touring sole provides excellent grip