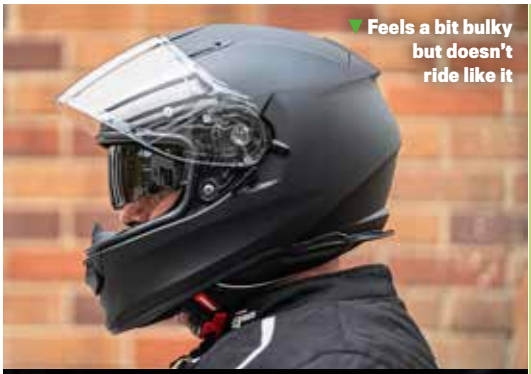


▼ Feels a bit bulky but doesn't ride like it

▶ Chin vents effective: top vents less so

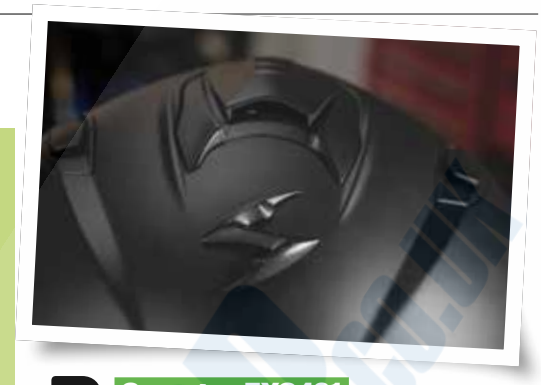
THE FACTS

Material Polycarbonate
Weight 1662g inc Pinlock
Fastening system Ratchet
Pinlock included? No, £27.50
Integrated sun visor? ✔
Removable interior? ✔
Quick-release cheekpads? ✔
Spectacles preparation? ✖
Intercom ready? ✔
Vents 4 front, 1 rear
No. shell sizes 3
Warranty 5 years
Sizes XXS-XXL
Sound level, vents closed 107.7dB
Sound level, vents open 108.3dB

THE SCORES

Fit
Comfort
Ease of use
Venting
Noise

Total 36/50



3 Scorpion EXO491

£134.99 - £159.99
www.bikerheadz.co.uk

The Scorpion has a solid and reassuring feel to it, due in part to its weight – a hefty 1662g. It also feels large, though three shell sizes mean that it should be as compact as possible for every head size. A Pinlock insert isn't included but you can choose either a 70 or Max Vision version and the visor includes adjustable posts for the insert.

Visor removal is easy enough (albeit slightly fiddly with plastic tags) but when fitted, it needs a firm push down to close fully and make what appears to be a watertight seal. A small plastic lock at the rear on the left-hand side prevents the visor opening, though it does seem to allow a crack for ventilation.

Putting it on, it slides nicely into place on our tester's head and the lining feels good against the skin and cosseting, with no protrusions or pinching. There is plenty of space in front of the face so you don't feel claustrophobic and the drop-down sun visor – while operation is a little fiddly with the rear-mounted lever – fits well, with a pleasant neutral colour.

The main chin vent is easy to find and operate, as is the two-position (plus closed) top vent, though the two thinner side vents are trickier to find and operate with gloves on. They push open and flip forward easily to close but because they then sit flush, they're harder to open. Wearing glasses is tricky – the arms are pushed above the ears so you may end up looking through the wrong part.

On the road, it's actually very impressive. Although it has a hefty feel to it, it doesn't ride like it and is stable and comfortable in use. There is no pressure increase as you ride and vision is very nice. The visor aperture is the sort of size you would expect but the visor itself is exceptionally clear and the drop-down sun visor, which has a reasonable action and a neutral tint, appears to resist fogging too, which can be a real pain at low speeds on some of the other examples.

Venting is good, although not as effective as some: a two-stage chin vent means you can get maximum airflow or a more pleasant breeze but the top vent seems less effective – it's tricky to know sometimes if it's open or shut. The side vents are a little better but they are even more tricky to find and use on the move than when stationary.

However, while the Scorpion has the joint-highest average noise figure recorded in the test, it offers exceptional value.