

TRIED & TESTED

MCN STAFF RATE THEIR RIDING KIT



16,500 miles ONTEST



Brow vent can be noisy if you ride in an upright position



Classy, comfy, cossetting – it's tough to find faults

Arai Quantic 'Face' helmet, £599.99

'A protective duvet for your head'



Tested by Richard Newland for 18 months

The Quantic is a typical Arai evolution, blending only the tech and features they're happy to introduce with their trademark 'R75' shell design ethos. This means no internal sun visor, no sharp angular edges or rigid vents and spoilers (the large rear exhaust/spoiler is designed to crumple or detach in an accident).

Despite all the vents, once closed I've suffered no water ingress during persistent rain, and you can exclude almost all unwanted draughts on cold days, meaning it's been a firm favourite through winter, acting like a cossetting protective duvet for your head.

The MaxVision visor mechanism uses two recessed levers to release the side pods and detach the visor. The pods do need cleaning out occasionally, and a quick lube to keep everything smooth and effortless, while the visors boast an excellent Pinlock aperture.

The Quantic is one of the relatively new breed of ECE22.06 rated helmets, which sees helmet impact testing at higher and lower speeds than 22.05, and the introduction of an angled impact test to simulate the rotational forces often present in an accident.

There's no doubt the Quantic is best suited to sporty riding positions, as I find the brow vent – secluded within the Arai logo itself – does generate wind noise (even when closed) if your head is in an upright touring attitude. Dip your head, and it's impressively quiet again. Every vent, and the large visor lock lever, are a doddle to use through even the thickest gloves – although the one failure I've suffered was one of the small brow vents coming off as I opened it. Thankfully, my fingers wrapped around it as it came off, and I pulled over and popped it in my pocket (now reattached with clear double-sided tape).

Otherwise, the quality, finish and fit have all proven to be superb. The nose and chin visors

are effective, and while there are no claims of being a glasses-friendly design, I find it easy to slide mine into place. The chin strap is a double-D buckle and the liner is removable and washable, while it also boasts emergency quick-release cheek pads to make it easier for paramedics to remove should you decide to have a little lay down kerbside. There's nothing to dislike other than the slightly heavy price tag. But even if you change your helmet every five years, it's only a tenner per month.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.whyarai.co.uk

PROS & CONS

- + Superb fit and comfort, great venting, ECE22.06, good spec
- One vent fell off; it's a tad pricey; the main brow vent can be noisy

One of the sliding brow vents slid right off, now held on with a sticky pad!



No significant wear to the strap or lining