

TRIED & TESTED

MCN STAFF RATE THEIR RIDING KIT



6000 MILES



Visor can be tricky to open in thick gloves



Arai Quantic £499.99

'Offers so much confidence'

Tested by Michael Neeves for seven months / 6000 miles



After putting a gazillion miles on my trusty old Arai QV over the past few years, I'm now wearing their latest touring lid:

the Quantic. Launched last year, it was the first helmet certified to stricter new ECE 22-06 regs which include a test for glancing impacts.

I've done big miles around the MCN250 in it and bike launches in the rain, shine, gale force winds and sub-zero degree temperatures in the UK to 25°C in Spain. It's proved to be quiet and comfortable every inch of the way.

I still wear Arai's RX-7V, which has extra venting and aero, for racing and track tests but the Quantic makes more sense on the road. It does without the racier helmet's top scoops, making it much quieter in the windblast. The lining is velvety, too, making the helmet feel extra comfortable.

Compared to the old QV the Quantic's shell is bigger and slightly heavier (up from 1560g to 1650g), but it's still light and easy to wear.

It has a deeper chin bar a new rear spoiler and useful new vents, including one that forms the raised Arai badge. But, unlike the QV or RX-7V, there are no vents to stash your earplugs in when you're not using them.

It uses the same visor and mechanism as the QV and RX-7V. I've never had a problem with them in the past, but I struggle to pop the Quantic's visor open unless I can get my finger up and underneath the visor as I open it. That's almost impossible wearing thick gloves. During the winter I've had to stop to take my gloves off before I can get it open, but it's not a problem with thinner gloves. Visor changes are quick and easy once you've got the knack.

I've always worn medium Arais (they're available from XS to XL) and the Quantic fits perfectly out of the box without any need to change the padding. The slightly wider base makes it easier to get on and off than Arais I've had before, too. It also comes with a Pinlock anti-fog insert and a small bottle of silicone, which you'll need from time to time to keep the visor moving freely. It also has a built-in (non-

removable) chin skirt and quick-release cheek pads.

Like all Arais the Quantic is hand built in Japan and beautifully finished, which goes a long way to justify the price. Arai will also service your helmet for free at selected events and race meetings.

I've crashed in Arais more times than I care to remember and they've saved my bacon every time. So, while I love the way the Quantic feels, fits... and smells, it also offers me a huge amount of confidence.

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



Plush and welcoming interior

PROS & CONS

- +** Quiet and comfortable. Built to the new ECE 22-06 standard
- Visor can be tricky to open with thick winter gloves



New spoiler keeps it stable at speed