

TRIED & TESTED

MCN STAFF RATE THEIR RIDING KIT



The Shoei has every feature you could want

1000 miles ON TEST



Aerodynamic design keeps it super-stable at speed



Shoei GT-Air 3 £649.99

'Get ready for the Grand Tour'



Tested by Richard Newland for 3 weeks

This new GT-Air 3, replacing the – you guessed it – GT-Air 2 (£589.99) in the range, brings the latest ECE 22.06 certification, as well as a host of tweaks and upgrades to bring things like seamlessly integrated intercom preparation for the new SENA SRL 3 Mesh system, a well-designed drop-down sun visor, slippery aerodynamics and excellent venting together in one highly effective package.

Some helmets take a bit of bedding-in, but the new GT-Air 3 felt sublime from the very first time I wore it. After one 17-mile commute, I had no hesitation bashing out a 300-mile ride the following day – and nor did I regret it.

The lining is pleasingly robust feeling, whilst also being plush and soft; the micrometric buckle (now narrower than before) sits nice and naturally, and the venting means that there's a cooling blast when needed, and none

at all when it isn't. I wear glasses, and they can slide effortlessly into place, too.

Wind noise is minimal, while turbulence appears to be near non-existent on the bikes I've ridden (Multi V4 Rally and VFR800F). At motorway speeds, or more, it's completely stable. I've fitted the chin curtain and nose guard to my helmet – both are supplied in the box – and it delivers a draught-free ride. The only negative is that for those of us who are follicly challenged, the EPS channels leave an imprint on your head after a long ride, meaning you look like an extra from Star Trek.

The one downside to ECE 22.06 appears to be a universal increase in average mass, meaning the GT-Air 3 isn't float-away light, with a claimed mass of 1750-1800g, and measured on my kitchen scales 1802g with the Pinlock, chin curtain and nose guard fitted. But while it feels solid in your hand, you don't notice any extra mass when you're wearing it.

The visor change system is pretty effortless

to use, but not perfect. I find the 'hook-and-click' mounting system to be seamless half the time and infuriating for the rest. It's the same system as I have on the Hornet ADV and I've never worked out why it's a two-second job sometimes, and a 30-second job at other times. Much easier with a clear visor than a dark one, too – because you can actually see what you're trying to do.

Despite the slightly gut-wrenching price, in terms of value, I'd say it's bang on the money.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
shoeiassured.co.uk

PROS & CONS

- +** Super-quiet and stable, superb integration of features
- It's a hefty outlay at this end of the quality spectrum

Micrometric buckle is now narrower than before and sits naturally



Venting is perfect and the lining is plush