

TRIED & TESTED

MCN STAFF RATE THEIR RIDING KIT



1000 MILES



It's built to Arai's classic R75 shape

Arai RX-7V Evo £699.99

'It's the ultimate road helmet'

Tested by Emma Franklin, time tested two months/1000 miles



This is the updated version of Arai's flagship helmet, now certified to the more stringent ECE 22.06 safety standard.

It's Arai's second lid to be tested to the new tougher requirements, after the introduction of the mid-range Quantic last year. This would lead you to think that the Quantic perhaps influenced the new RX-7V Evo, but that doesn't appear to be the case. In fact, the RX-7V Evo has the exact same composite-fibre shell moulded into Arai's traditional 'R75' rounded shape, with its reinforcing belt above the brow, as well as the same multi-density one-piece EPS lining as the previous RX-7V. This is all down to the fact that Arai say their lids are built to be the safest they can possibly be and not just to meet regulations.

Getting the new Evo and old RX-7V side by side reveals that almost everything, from the external vents, to the chin curtain, visor system and rear spoiler, appears to be exactly

the same. Arai say the top vent allows 11% more airflow than before and features a bigger switch for ease of use. They also say that the two intake scoops are 19% larger. But, to be honest, the changes are barely distinguishable. The only noticeable difference that I can see is the addition of two extra internal vents between the cheek pads and the outer shell, designed to duct moist air away from the visor.

For all the changes Arai have – and haven't – made to the RX-7V Evo, it's a stunning helmet. Although historically pitched as their flagship racing helmet, the RX-7V Evo to me is now the ultimate road-riding lid. The ventilation is supreme, better than any other helmet I've worn. It's also remarkably quiet, which surprised me given how heavily scooped it is on the exterior. And as for the fit, well... Not only is the adjustable and washable anti-bac lining really plush, but it also cocoons my head in such a way that the lid itself is completely unnoticeable, even at high speeds. There's no lifting or pushing back against the face, neither are there any pressure points at the forehead.

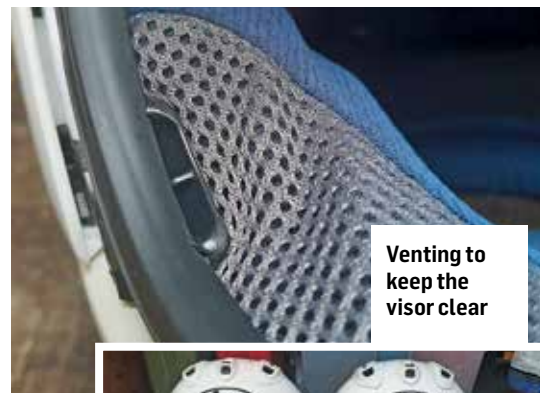
There's also space for an intercom.

The Evo has yet to be SHARP tested, but given that it has the same shell and EPS as the RX-7V, expect it to also achieve the maximum five stars. At £699.99 it's expensive, but given its similarity to the RX-7V, you might be able to save yourself a few quid if and when retailers start discounting the older model. You should also consider the Quantic – again, a very similar performing lid at a slightly cheaper price (£499.99).

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

PROS & CONS

- + Safety, comfort, fit, supreme ventilation
- Overly fiddly visor retaining mechanism



Venting to keep the visor clear



Spot the difference (Evo is on the left)