

TRIED & TESTED

MCN STAFF RATE THEIR RIDING KIT

★★★★★

Six months ON TEST

No sting in the tail, it's a solid performer



Inflatable cheek pads help in keeping wind noise at bay



Scorpion ADF 9000 £329.99

'Scorpion's a shrewd buy'



Tested by Justin Hayzelden for six months

The soft, smooth fabric that Scorpion use on the ADF 9000's cheek pads lets it slip comfortably onto my bonce every time – and that always sets the scene for a good ride. The inner material has a honeycomb pattern to stop it from sliding around once in position, and the plush sensation against the skin makes it a helmet that'd I'd rather wear without a neck tube.

The firmly cushioned interior cocoons my skull without any identifiable pressure points, and that snug fit can be further enhanced by using Scorpion's integrated 'Airfit' system, which allows you to gently inflate the cheek pads by pumping a small red button in the chin bar. I notice it most at the back corners of

my jaw, where it applies just enough pressure to seal any gaps, effectively preventing any drafts or wind noise from creeping in.

At 1681g, the ADF 9000 isn't a particularly heavy helmet, but even so, it carries its mass well. I've spent many hours pottering along green lanes without any undue weight on my neck, and it was my lid of choice for an 'iron butt' ride, where I covered over 1000 miles in less than 24 hours.

Although it doesn't have a lock to keep it closed, the visor stays firmly shut to keep rain out, and doesn't rattle or wobble when opened either. The mechanism allows for a satisfyingly positive operation without any twisting or squirming, and I particularly like the fact that there are tabs on both sides, so you can open or close it with either hand. Visor removal is simple in theory, but

requires quite a bit of force in practice, and it's virtually impossible to install it without getting paw prints all over the place.

Ventilation is the weakest attribute, due to the lid only having two small intakes on the top. That's not to say they don't work, and a sandy slog around Thetford Forest in 30°C heat failed to get me to overheat, but there's not the 'wind in the hair' sensation of other helmets. Overall quality is above par for the price, and from the executive level interior to the slick visor mechanism and premium paint job, it's a very well put together helmet. At £329.99 with a



Fastening is with a double D-ring



The lid's ventilation could be better

five-year warranty, the Scorpion is a pretty shrewd buy, and easier on the wallet than more exotic brands. **Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★** bikerheadz.co.uk



Visor mechanism is top drawer

PROS & CONS

+ Comfort is superb. Main visor mechanism has a nice feel

- Internal sunshade can catch the tip of your nose