

TRIED & TESTED

MCN STAFF RATE THEIR RIDING KIT



It's new in from Shoei and very hard to fault

690 miles ON TEST



The flip is a single-handed operation via the red button



Shoei Neotec 3 £589.99

'Pricey... but worth it'



Tested by Justin Hayzelden for three weeks

The Neotec 3 is the latest evolution of Shoei's popular flip-front and comes with a comprehensive suite of upgrades, not least of which is certification to ECE 22.06. As with previous versions, it's P/J homologated for use either open or closed and includes creature comforts such as a drop-down sunshade and prep for an intercom.

Out of the box the Neotec 3 oozes quality, from the hand laid AIM shell (that's Advanced Integrated Matrix, a complex construction using fibreglass and organic fibres) to the plush moisture wicking interior. Shoei have used three different fabrics for the lining, and this makes it one seriously comfortable lid.

The interior has a sumptuous, organic plushness that reflects the high standards expected of a hand-crafted product, but Shoei have taken this one step further by providing

the option of a full custom fitting. After having measurements taken by their in-house specialist, mine had a couple of pads inserted to adjust the height and the result is as close to perfection as you can get.

The flip front is operated by a single red button at the front. It's a simple, one-handed job, and similarly closure requires just light pressure to engage the lock pins. It doesn't create much drag at town speeds when open, with enough airflow through the gap over the helmet to prevent it acting like an airbrake.

Ventilation includes redesigned intake ports on the chin and brow, controllable through three positions. It's easy to use, even in chunky winter gloves, and effective, with warm air being drawn out by an exhaust vent at the rear.

The visor now has a central locking mechanism and lift tab, which Shoei claim will prevent a visor twisting issue suffered by the outgoing model. I found that pinching the tab to lift causes your thumb to unlock the visor in

one movement, which works so well I can only assume it's by design. There's a thick, squishy bead for weatherproofing, and so far that has kept both the rain out and a sustained attack from a garden hose by way of testing.

At £589.99 for the basic white or black, it's not a cheap lid, and when you add in the bespoke SENA SRL-3 intercom for £339.99 you really are paying top dollar. But what you're getting is a class-leading helmet in terms of comfort and function.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
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PROS & CONS

- + Excellent fit, low noise levels, premium feel, integrated comms
- At 1750g (without comms), it's a relatively heavy option

Vents are three-way adjustable and it's an easy task with a gloved hand



It's comms-ready for the SENA SRL-3 system