

THE MCN SHOWCASE

ECE 22.06 SPORTY HELMETS

Top-spec lids that pass stringent new safety standards



Drop-down sun visor has a neutral, smoke tint



- Fit and comfort rated
- Design, construction and practicality rated
- Each meets the new ECE 22.06 standard

500
miles
ON TEST

HJC i71 from £199.99

‘Premium kit on a budget’

Smart but heavy sport touring helmet has a premium feel



Tested by Steve Herbert-Mattick for one month

HJC's new i71 sports touring helmet has a more premium feel than its price would suggest. It's the second ECE 22.06 helmet I've tried and for both I've needed to go up to a medium, having always worn a small regardless of manufacturer or style.

It's instantly comfortable, with plush but firm and perfectly shaped cheek pads. The forehead lining sits low and although there is enough pressure to leave indentations in my skin, over a five-hour, 250-mile round trip it was never uncomfortable.

It's loaded with features, you get a Pinlock-ready visor (Pinlock included) with a new locking mechanism that's easy to use. There's also an excellent three-position drop-down sun visor with a perfect, neutral smoke tint that provides almost full coverage without any distraction to my peripheral vision. It has

mounts for an HJC Smart Bluetooth unit (available separately from £149.99) built into its polycarbonate shell, which is available in three versions for six helmet sizes.

The Pinlock visor isn't the best and can fog up a bit – especially when it's damp out and you're stopped at the lights. The sun visor is worse, as they invariably all are.

Airflow through the lid is limited to mouth and forehead vents but they're large enough to be quite effective.

True to its sports-touring intentions it works best when you're sitting upright – a sporty crouch, never mind a full tuck, will have you staring straight at the low forehead lining. The chin strap – especially the side with the D-rings – is annoyingly short which makes it awkward to put on and take off with cold fingers during a winter ride.

At nearly 1800g for a medium it's seriously heavy, too. My Yamaha Tracer 9 GT+ has a poorly designed and noisy screen, but given its

heft I'm surprised that the i71 is the noisiest of all four helmets I've used when riding it. At least the buffeting and turbulence is minimal thanks to its smooth, aerodynamic shape.

These points are nit-picking though. The i71 is seriously impressive for under £200 for plain colours (£230 for graphics), and feels like a helmet from the next price bracket up. With comfort enough for five-hour ride and beyond, an excellent drop-down sun visor and quality construction.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.oxfordproducts.com

PROS & CONS

- + Premium feel, comfort, value, intercom-ready, wide aperture
- Weight, slightly foggy visor, short chin strap

Chin strap could be longer and is fiddly to use with cold fingers



It's Smart HJC-ready with mounts for Bluetooth