

TRIED & TESTED

MCN STAFF RATE THEIR RIDING KIT



Ali has tested it as both rider and pillion

3000 miles ON TEST



Full-face or flipped, it's approved in both formats



LS2 Avanti X helmet £299.99

'Ticks the right boxes'



Tested by Alison Silcox for eight months

At £300 this is a mid-priced helmet with some nice touches and has been comfortable from the get-go. As I enjoy touring, I always favour flip-fronts, they're comfortable, practical and this one ticks most of the right boxes.

The lining is plush, it's retained its shape and there's never been an issue with any unwelcome pressure points. Better still, the lid's approved for use with the chin up or down and the flip itself is easy to operate. With a large button on the chin bar, it easily revolves around to the fixed position at the rear. It can be slid back and locked into place in the full-face position with a single-hand move. From a safety perspective, cheek pads can be easily removed in an emergency and there's a sticker on the shell to highlight this function.

The Avanti X has a large aperture and the visor comes with a Pinlock anti-mist insert,

which is vital for year-round rides. There's a drop-down sun visor, which I've come to expect in all touring lids and this one is as good as any others I've used. The lever to operate is well placed and large enough for you to be able to locate it quickly and easily.

It's not perfect, however, and I have found that the visor seal is prone to leaking during wet rides... sending drips down my nose, which is both uncomfortable and distracting. I returned the lid to the manufacturer for them to have a look but they said they couldn't find any faults or fixes with the seal. Also, it's a sturdy and solid design, but at 1600g (size M) it does feel heavy and quite cumbersome.

Vents are plentiful and well placed; all are easy to operate, even with a gloved hand. You get a large vent on the chin, one on the forehead and finally a pair of exhaust vents on the rear. Worn on some warm rides, I've not overheated and equally on winter trips, the helmet's not been draughty.

While the lid arrives intercom ready, it's not something I use, instead I wear earplugs with all lids. With that in mind, it's as quiet as I would expect and doesn't stand out as any better or worse than other lids I've worn.

It carries a two-year warranty and other than the visor issue, feels like it will last. If you are looking for an everyday helmet for your commute, or a spin out, this would fit the bill. It's a fair price and while it's not the best headgear I've worn, it does the job nicely.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.ls2helmets.com

PROS & CONS

- + Wearing well, two-year warranty, approved closed and flipped
- Not the lightest helmet, visor seal leaks on the one we tested

Single-handed flip front action is chunky and easy to operate



Vents work well and are simple to open/close