



Great vents and it's quiet too



Schuberth S3 £499.99

2500 miles ON TEST

'Immediately my new favourite'



Tested by Charlotte King for five months

From the first time that I pulled this helmet onto my head, it was immediately evident that this was a top-spec product. The interior is plush and hasn't shown any signs of wear at all in five months of regular use, and the fit is as if it were made for me. The visor is crystal clear, even after

multiple washes, and the glossy paint finishes it beautifully.

The ventilation is more than adequate, with plenty of airflow; the chin vent pushes air across the Pinlock-enabled visor, virtually eradicating misting and the brow vents allow so much airflow that a touch of brain freeze is a risk in winter if you leave them wide open.

Having forgotten my earplugs on one ride, I was forced to ride without

(not recommended) and the Schuberth is surprisingly quiet, which in turn means that the integrated Sena SC2 intercom is plenty loud enough, even when you are wearing earplugs.

Having used this helmet for all rides, including commuting for a few months, it's safe to say, I'll take some convincing to use anything else.

MCN rating ★★★★★
www.schuberth.com

HJC RPHA1 Austin GP £799.99

'Very good for track riding'



Tested by Chris Newbigging for two years

HJC's top-line track helmet is extremely focused in its fit and design, and not intended for day-to-day convenience and comfort. It isn't unduly uncomfortable, but the very snug fit means an hour or so is as much as I'd like to wear it without a break. The visor has screw-in fittings, and there's no drop-down either: if you want to swap, it's a more convoluted job.

That said, used for the intended track purpose, it's very good, with decent venting, a visor aperture that gives proper forward vision even in a tuck, and a respectable ability to wick sweat away and maintain comfort levels. The D-ring fastener is simple, traditional but works as well as ever – I wouldn't want anything else for extreme use.

It's proven robust over two years of riding, as well as carting it on planes to press events, with only one significant stone chip from following

3000 miles ON TEST



Spot on for track riding and you can fit the spoiler if you are so inclined

another bike at very close quarters. It comes with a Pinlock in the box (which fits well and keeps mist at bay) and a clear spoiler ready to fit, should you need 200mph aerodynamic performance... I don't take myself quite that seriously, so didn't bother. This colour (Red Bull Austin) is not current, but still available from some outlets: and like all the current options, at significant discount too.

They can be had for £460, which makes it decent value in the scheme of FIM-approved race-grade helmets, though I'm not sure it'd be the top choice if you had to pay the full asking price.

MCN rating ★★★★★
oxfordproducts.com

Shoei NXR2 from £429.99

'Not flash, it's just very, very good'



Tested by Simon Brown for three years, 3000 miles

This lid doesn't look fancy, but it's very, very good. The NXR2 meets ECE 22.06 – while it's also comfortable and quiet. A wide aperture provides a panoramic field of vision and there is little in the way of wind noise. Shoei improved the cheek and ear padding and revised the seal around the visor over the NXR, and it's paid off. Stability at speed is spot on and it is light at 1450g. Swapping the visor is stress free, as is removing the lining. There are vents on the chin, forehead and either side of the head.

MCN rating ★★★★★
shoeiassured.co.uk

21,500 miles ON TEST



Arai Quantic Face helmet £599.99

'Superb comfort'



Tested by Richard Newland, 3 years

The Quantic was one of the first ECE 22.06 helmets, and is 4-star rated by SHARP, only losing points on side impact protection at the highest speed rating. Airflow is strong via the chin, brow, forehead, top vents and multiple exhausts – while I've suffered no water ingress during persistent rain, or unwanted draughts when closed. The MaxVision Pinlock visor is excellent, with a wide and sporty aperture. The fit and finish is great, and it still looks almost new after over 20,000 miles. The only demerit being a lost brow vent that needed to be replaced.

MCN rating ★★★★★
www.whyarai.co.uk

Three years ON TEST

