

## TRIED & TESTED

MCN STAFF RATE THEIR RIDING KIT



The Nocturne TC-4 scheme is pretty classy



4000 MILES

Shoei NXR2 helmet £539.99

# 'It's worked well at over 120mph'

Tested by Gareth Evans for over six months/4000 miles



Head to the NXR2 page on Shoei's website and you're greeted with a screenful of Marc Marquez. It's clear this is a lid aimed at sporty riding, which is exactly the reason I picked it. There are 19 designs on offer in the UK, including some MM93 tributes, but in Nocturne TC-4 colours I think it's a great look, somehow managing to tread the fine line between subtle and stylish, with an aerodynamic twist thanks to the spoiler.

But as well as the looks, it's the aeros that make this among the quietest helmets I've worn when travelling at speed. I've been north of 120mph on race tracks and it's been brilliant. It's only ever really loud when you turn your head out of the normal airflow – for example looking over your shoulder.

It's versatile in terms of venting too, which has been great for me because I've ridden in all manner of conditions, from frosty drizzle to 40-degree-plus heat. There are six inlets

on the brow and chin, feeding to four outlets on the rear, allowing you to adjust the airflow for the situation at hand. A CWR-F2 Pinlock keeps fogging at bay and once I'd learnt to use the vents properly this worked faultlessly; an early session at Brands Hatch in biblical rain did have me looking for demister spray, but I've never needed it since.

When you're adjusting the vents or indeed operating the visor, you get a real sense of quality in terms of the solidity of the materials and the way they all work together. Inside the shell, the removable liners snap into place with poppers that feel very strong, unlike a lot of cheaper helmets I've tested.

Furthermore it's a fantastic fit for me. There are a lot of sizing options, including five outer shell sizes and cheek pads in four thicknesses, which means it's worth getting the helmet fitted properly at a shop rather than buying blind online.

The strap is secured using a double D-ring and, while I've tried other systems, nothing offers the same simplicity. I'm able to use

a single gloved hand to fasten the chinstrap, and a popper means there's no tail flapping around once I've done so. Should the worst happen, there's an Emergency Quick Release System that allows the lid to be removed.

Sure, it's not a cheap lid, but if this design is too expensive, there are simpler solid colours on offer starting at a hundred quid less.

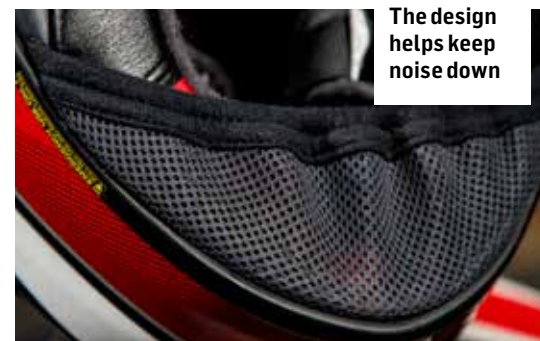
And to top it all off, the Shoei comes with a five-year warranty for additional peace of mind.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★  
shoeiassured.co.uk

### PROS & CONS

- + Looks great, comfortable and high quality. Stable speed
- It's not cheap, and it's best fitted at a shop for the best result

The design helps keep noise down



Vents are easy to use and effective