



Nothing to snag in an accident

Arai Quantic £599.99

‘It’s my cranial safety cocoon’

Tested by Richard Newland for two years
One of the very first ECE 22.06 helmets, Arai’s Quantic (this is the ‘Face’ colourscheme) uses their ‘R75’ shell design ethos – so there’s no sharp angular edges, rigid vents and spoilers or internal sun visor. The large rear exhaust/spoiler is designed to crumple or detach in an accident, while the vents are all flush to the shell or will sheer off rather than gripping or snagging (heightening rotational risks).
Airflow is superb on hot days, but in cold weather the plush liner, chin curtain and effective vents mean you suffer no water ingress or unwanted draughts. In fact, the only negative to mention is that one brow vent has exited stage right of its own accord.
The MaxVision visor and Pinlock deliver an excellent field of vision, and no fogging (so long as you maintain the visor/Pinlock), and I find it effortlessly accommodating to slide my glasses into place. The chin strap is a double-D, and the liner is removable and washable with emergency quick-release cheek pads. After two years of heavy all-weather use, it barely feels broken-in.
Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.whyarai.co.uk

19,500 miles ON TEST

The rear vent is designed to shear



Shoei X-SPR Pro £699.99

‘Good enough for Marquez...’

Tested by Michael Neeves for 14 months
Shoei’s X-SPR Pro is pricey, but worth every penny. It’s light, comfortable, superbly vented and slips through the air quietly and with complete stability, making it easy to wear for long periods, especially at track speeds.
I’m a medium and it fits well out of the box, but I’ve taken advantage of Shoei’s Personal Fitting Service, who’ve added extra padding for a perfect fit. It isn’t a service widely available yet but keep an eye on their website for updates. It also has a flawlessly applied Rich-Art paintjob. Best of all when you see Marc Marquez consistently walking away from huge crashes wearing a Shoei X-SPR Pro helmet (and the previous versions) it gives you the utmost confidence wearing it.
Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.shoeiassured.co.uk

3000 miles ON TEST



It’s the choice of champions

Shark Race-R Pro GP FIM £999.99

‘Mega safe, but mega pricey’

Tested by Emma Franklin for two years
In 2019, racing’s governing body, the FIM, mandated that world championship racers wear an FIM-approved lid. This required helmets to pass extra tests at higher impact speeds, survive penetration with a sharp implement, and mitigate rotational forces. Shark’s Race-R Pro GP FIM was one of the first FIM-approved helmets available to buy when it was launched in 2019. With its carbon-composite outer shell (available in two sizes across XS-XL), it’s reasonably light weight (my medium weighs 1430g), and extremely comfortable.
The antibacterial lining is excellent at both wicking sweat and drying quickly, and it still looks and feels like new. The best thing about the Race-R Pro GP is how quiet it is – it’s one of the quietest lids I own. This is thanks to its smooth shell shape and simple visor mechanism, as well as the huge whisper strip.
As beautifully made as it is, I can’t help but feel £1000 is mental money; it is possible to find it discounted to £799.88 online, but even then it’s still mega pricey.
Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.nevis.uk.com

3500 miles ON TEST



AGV K1 S £209.99

‘Just what the Doctor ordered’

Tested by Justin Hayzelden for 10 months
AGV’s K1 S caught my eye as one of the first entry-level lids to pass ECE 22.06. The fit is bob-on, cradling the head in all the right places without undue pressure, although the padding feels a bit lacking across the top – not uncomfortable, just firm rather than sumptuous. Ventilation is excellent, but the adjustable intakes are still stiff after 3000-odd miles, and in chunky gloves almost impossible to operate, especially the chin vent, which can only be toggled from the inside. There’s no sunshade, but switching visors provides a moment of joy thanks to a quick-release system. And it looks mint in this Rossi rep livery.
Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.agv.com

3000 miles ON TEST



LS2 Advant X Carbon, £379.99

‘Does the job’

Tested by Saffron Wilson for three months
When I first wore this helmet for some long stints, I did find a couple of pressure points, but the more I’ve worn it the less annoying they’ve become. I’m hoping once another 500 miles have gone by it’ll be a comfy option that I turn to for whatever mileage I’m riding.
I teamed it with a Sena 50R comms system which was quite easy to install although the microphone has meant I’ve lost the bottom skirt. It meets ECE 22.06 requirements, has an easy-to-use quick-release chin strap as well as an integral sun visor and the flip works well.
Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
ls2helmets.com

639 miles ON TEST

