

TRIED & TESTED
 MCN STAFF RATE THEIR RIDING KIT
 ★★★★★

It's not a livery for wallflowers

1100 miles ON TEST



Fit is super snug and fog-free



Shark Aeron £759.99

'Race-ready glam rocker'



Tested by Justin Hayzelden for one month

It's not often that something on my desk creates as much of a stir as the Shark Aeron. Almost everyone at MCN has had something to say about it, and although the comments haven't always been complimentary (some people have no taste!), it's been a talking point, nonetheless.

I'm referring exclusively to the imaginatively titled 'Fawn' livery, a heady mix of neon colours and graffiti-style graphics laid over a deep, liquid gloss of a carbon fibre shell. It's refreshingly different to behold, especially with the optional pink iridium visor (£113.99), but there's a lot more to this lid than its eye-catching looks.

The Aeron is based on Shark's FIM

homologated Aeron GP, minus the adaptive aero wings that heralded its release last year. It still has plenty in common, such as the lightweight construction, Optical Class 1 visor with quick-release mechanism and generous venting, but at a more palatable price.

In my usual size, M, fit is on the firmer side of snug, but along with the substantial cheek pads, that makes for a reassuringly cossetting sensation. It hugs my head in such a way that I'm barely aware that I'm wearing it at all – up to a point. With the anti-fog mask fitted, which creates a seal right across the bridge of your nose, I find that a breather from that all-encompassing world becomes necessary after a while. It's much like wearing one-piece leathers: great for a few hours, but any longer and it can start to feel restrictive.

At speed the Aeron cuts through the air with minimal drag, and that's never more noticeable than on a naked bike. The spoiler makes it feel stable, which combines with the light weight and interior comfort for an overall sensation of confidence and unfettered concentration. It's relatively quiet, but the diffusers in the chin bar do cause some wind noise. It's not a turbulent roar, but noticeable when moving fast.

The visor system is hands down the best I have tested on any helmet. The opening is completely stepless, and the friction which keeps it in place can be fine-tuned to suit your preference. It locks on the left-hand side with an easy to find catch that holds it firmly shut against the seal, preventing any invasive drafts or rain. Removal is easy, requiring a simultaneous twist of a lever at either side to release the

shield. Installation, as they say, is simply the reverse procedure.

At £759.99, the Aeron lines up against some stiff competition, but it offers similar levels of performance and certainly tops the group for the visor system. Build quality, backed up by a five-year warranty, suggests it'll more than go the distance, and I'd be happy to put my own money down on the Aeron as a focused sports lid – if just to get that paintjob.

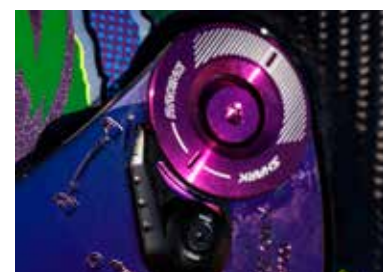
MCN rating ★★★★★
nevis.uk.com

PROS & CONS

- + **Lightweight, excellent visor system, top notch vents**
- **A little too focused for long distance work**



Air scoops help to keep a cool head



Visor is a quick-release masterclass