

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

Spoiler suits a sportsbike and actually works

1700 miles ON TEST



Visor quick-release levers can be fiddly

LS2 Thunder GP Aero £459.99

‘Delicate sound of Thunder’



Tested by Justin Hayzelden for six months

Sitting just one grid place back from the firm's range topping FIM homologated helmet, the GP Pro, the ACU Gold approved carbon fibre Thunder GP Aero is essentially LS2's road and track sports lid for the masses.

The interior padding is more functional than plush, providing just enough comfort for a couple of hours at a stretch without any issue. Beyond that it can start to feel a bit spartan. It does feel good to wear though, and I like the sense of protection that comes with the close, cossetting fit. I particularly like the way the cheek pads hug my neck and curve under my jaw, making a firm seal to keep wind roar and drafts out.

I do struggle with the fact that the

lining catches over the tops of my ears when I'm putting it on. It only takes a second to free them, but there have been times when I've ridden off thinking all was well, only to get that creeping sensation of 'something's not quite right' further up the road.

A wide eye port gives the Thunder unhindered peripheral vision, and I'm more than happy barrelling through traffic and filtering without the need to tear my head away from what's happening ahead. Perhaps more important for a sports lid is the view along the upper edge and I've had no problem at all looking up and through the turn when I've been head down or hanging off for committed riding.

Unlike many other helmets, the visor is removed in the closed position – this is achieved by releasing a small catch at other side and pivoting a retaining arm out of the way, before

sliding the visor out. Installation requires ensuring the arms are fully locked in position, and although it's easy enough to do on the bench without gloves, you need to double check everything in the field as there's no 'fail safe' position to prevent the visor from coming adrift or getting twisted if they're not.

In clean air the wind tunnel tuned Thunder GP Aero actually feels slippery, and that aerodynamic sensation is underlined by the fact that it's so quiet. Carbon fibre helmets have a reputation for being noisy, as do race lids in general, but I really haven't found that to be the case with the Thunder.

Build quality is very good, and having been subjected to scorching summer heat, pounding rain and the worst of winter road grime, the Thunder GP Aero still looks almost

box fresh. The carbon weave is super neat, and the matt topcoat is flawless, plus all the moving parts and vents are all of a suitably high standard.

As a functional and focused ready-to-race lid, the LS2 Thunder Aero GP is worth checking out, and offers a good return on your hard earned spondoolies. It comes with a 5-year warranty too, and given the build quality, should easily last that. **Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★** ls2helmets.com

PROS & CONS

- + Very quiet for a carbon lid, excellent field of vision
- Visor release system fiddly, comfort is purely functional



Comfort: More functional than plush



Great vents. Carbon weave looks cool