

TRIED & TESTED

MCN STAFF RATE THEIR RIDING KIT

★★★★★

It's delivered on a cross section of machines

Eight months ON TEST



Under £450 in this colour, but some are more pricey



HJC RPHA 12 £449.99 (Lawin MC1 Red)

'One of the best I've worn'



Tested by Dan Sutherland for 3500 miles

I'm in the fortunate position of testing a lot of helmets during my day job and I try to subject as many as I can to all conditions during my year-round ride to and from the MCN office, or when road testing, and covering leisure miles.

After just shy of 4000 miles, I'm happy to say that the HJC RPHA 12 ranks as one of the best I have sampled – for practicality and style. It's been my go-to for the daily commute since the late summer and has been subjected to torrential rain, freezing fog, the occasional snowflake, and a peppering of grit salt. Despite this, it continues to function perfectly.

Essentially the ECE 22.06 replacement to the RPHA 11 (another great helmet) it sits below the FIM-spec RPHA 1 track helmet as a sporty do-it-all with mass market appeal, at the premium end of HJC's range.

Although my particular design retails at

£449.99, prices do climb to as high as £559.99 for carbon and licensed film character options, which I think is a step too far.

I've used this particular HJC on everything from my Honda CBR600RR long-term test bike to the monstrous Triumph Rocket 3 cruiser, and on every occasion it's been great.

It did take a good few weeks of breaking in but now it's comfortable on my head for hours of continuous motorway drudgery, and cuts through the air nicely with minimal buffeting.

It comes with my preferred double D-ring fastening system, plus a generously sized chin curtain that has locked out the worst of the wind chill on every wintery ride so far. The chin curtain stays secure when you take the helmet off and feels well made.

I also think the RPHA 12 looks great. The old RPHA 11's centrally mounted metal visor clip was quite polarising, but this new look, with its subtle rear spoiler, front grilles, and moulded visor grab handle on the left side of the lens,

should appeal to most riders. It comes with a Pinlock-ready visor too, with an insert in the box. This is something you must install, as without it the visor will fog quickly, especially in cold and damp conditions.

Finally, there's a five-year warranty from the date of purchase, quick-release cheek pads, and a washable interior. It really is a practical, well thought out, and comfortable product. Just be prepared to pay through the nose for the best designs.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.oxfordproducts.com

PROS & CONS

- +** Day-long comfort, impressive build quality, good ventilation
- Pricy in certain designs, steams easily without Pinlock inserted

Spoiler keeps it stable at speed and there is ample ventilation for warm rides



Double-D chin fastening is Dan's preferred option