

THE MCN SHOWCASE

**ALL-ROUND
 CRASH
 HELMETS**

Treat yourself to some new headgear for the start of the riding season

- Each helmet tested for hundreds of miles of real-world riding
- Comfort, fit and noise rated

Full-faced and ready for action

Two months ON TEST



Flipped into jet mode and ready for summer



Shark OXO £369.99

'It's two helmets in one'



Tested by Al Silcox for two months

I'm a big fan of the Shark OXO, which is the latest dual-homologated lid from French manufacturer Shark. I've been wearing their helmets for a quarter of a century and have always been impressed with the quality, from the very first Foggy rep in 1996 through the entire evolution of the flip-fronted models. Over the years they've gone from strength to strength, and this one is a vast improvement on the earlier versions.

Made from polycarbonate, the OXO has a fully removable liner, which is plush and soft, there are slots to accommodate the arms of glasses. The chin strap is fully adjustable and the quick-release closure is very easy to operate.

There's a good field of vision through the large visor and when in jet mode, it offers plenty of wind protection. A Pinlock anti-fog insert is included, and it is a two-minute job to fit; push small tabs on the upper edge of both sides of the visor and it's removed, then clicks back into place. The drop-down sun visor is easy to use via a slider on the lefthand edge of the lid which locks into place and is released by a small button. It's dark enough to be of use, but as with most drop-down visors, it does have a tendency to mist up on cold rides.

The two well-placed vents are easy to operate, but I've not tested them to full effect because riding in winter doesn't require even more cold air. I always wear earplugs, and there are no issues with noise.

The OXO is prepped to accommodate an intercom, which is

welcome, but I've not tested it with one, so can't comment on its suitability for the task.

In the full-face position, it's a sleek design, but once the chin bar is moved to the open-faced position from the side view it's a bit lumpy and bumpy. From the front view, jet mode looks OK – and not too much like you're about to be shot out of a canon.

I've worn the EXO, a previous evolution, and the OXO is an improvement, in particular with regard to the chin bar. To swap the helmet from full-faced to open-faced (jet mode) is one smooth, easy move, and can be done single-handed. There's a button that locks the chin bar into open-face mode, and it can be used safely (and legally, as it's dual-homologated) in either the open or closed positions.

This is a well-priced lid, with the

flexibility of being both full and open-faced, to my mind, it's a buy one, get one free deal, as it's effectively two helmets in one. Available in a full range of sizes and there are a variety of colour options, with the plain version starting at just over £300. I've worn this for the duration of my winter commutes and I can see myself wearing this on my summer tours due to its comfort and practicality – and I'm confident the lid will outlive its five-year warranty.

MCN rating ★★★★★
www.nevis.uk.com

PROS & CONS

- + Great flip mechanism, comfortable from the off
- It's a five-star helmet and I can't fault it



The flip operation is quick and easy



Fun fact, Ali's favourite film is Top Gun