



CPMC Z55B Car Play £221.32

'Confidence-boosting tech in a small unit'



Tested by Robin Kirkley for two months

As a touring motorcyclist it feels like a luxury to be riding with an affordable and multi-functional Car Play system on my bike.

The Z55B from the Car Play Motorcycle Company (CPMC) sports a waterproof 5.5in display unit with crystal clear 960 x 480 resolution

that's visible in sun or rain and is standing up well to use.

Apart from all the features that Car Play offers, the Z55B comes with front and rear dashcams (also great for capturing my rides); real time tyre pressure monitoring (TPMS); and a radar unit for blind spot detection. That won't stop me doing my 'life saver' manoeuvre, but it does keep me aware of nearby vehicles even if I'm not changing lanes.

My phone now lives vibration-free in my pocket and everything I need for my ride is mirrored wirelessly onto the Z55B via Bluetooth – navigation apps; weather; music and phone (if I want them); and anything else I choose to ride with.

Watch out for my full in-depth digital review of the Z55B coming soon to the MCN website.

MCN rating ★★★★★
www.carplaymotorcycle.com

Cardo Packtalk EDGE £356.95

'Get wired for sound'



Tested by Richard Newland for over 22,000 miles

I'd been avoiding in-helmet comms for years – until I started talking pillions. Now, I get withdrawal symptoms if I'm not connected. My use is limited to rider-to-pillion talk, and solo riding listening to music. I only use it for phonecalls if stationary, and never for rider-to-rider/group rides (it can connect up to 15 users at once).

Fitting can be done in a 15-minute rush, but 30mins ensures a neat and accurate job, with the 40mm JBL speakers slotting neatly into every helmet I've tried (I've used it in Arai, Shoei and Shark). Once fitted, it's effortless to connect it to your phone and other units – and it connects first time, every time.



One charge will deliver around 12-14hrs of airtime before giving up the ghost. Usefully, it gives you fair warning of low battery status (audibly) before turning itself off (unlike my Sena, which just dies).

The sound quality is very good – but the volume needs more punch at speed (I wear good earplugs). The volume wheel is great, but it's

almost impossible to feel the little buttons when wearing gloves, and you have to remember a lot of commands or button combinations to action everything it can deliver. But, learn the basics and you'll be fully and effortlessly in touch with the world while riding.

MCN rating ★★★★★
cardosystems.com

Sena Spider £209

'Super simple'



Tested by Charlotte King for two months

I like to listen to music when I ride, but my previous intercom was specific to my old Schuberth, so I wanted a unit I could fit to any helmet. The Sena Spider seemed a good choice, a simpler unit that's still capable of what I need from it, able to connect to multiple other riders, for the rare occasions that I do ride in a group, and Bluetooth connection so that I can play my music from my phone. I have used it for around a thousand miles so far, and have not yet needed to charge it.

The speakers are adequate, a little on the quiet side when riding at speed with earplugs in but just about loud enough. The controls are easy to use thanks to large buttons that are easy to operate with gloves on. I inadvertently tested the waterproofing when, having left my helmet with my bike at an event, the heavens opened completely soaking both my lid and the Spider. All was well with the Sena but the ride home was somewhat grim!



Sena Spider is easy to fit and use

1000 miles ON TEST

Fitting was fairly simple, although the cable that runs from the unit to the speakers could do with being a little longer to give more routing options and tuck it more neatly behind the lining. The Spider's styling is looking a little dated and I don't think it looks as good as some of the later units – less streamlined and a bit clunkier – but it's not an ugly thing. It does everything I need it to do well enough, especially considering the price (plus it is on sale at Sportsbike Shop at the moment at £149.99).

MCN rating ★★★★★
www.sena.com

Ring Battery Video Doorbell £99.99

'Extra pair of eyes'



Tested by Dan Sutherland for one year

I first installed this Ring doorbell a year ago, after moving to a busier area. I wanted to be able to keep an eye on driveway activity when I was away from the house. It was a doddle to set-up, and the app-based interface is easy to use too. It'll also go weeks without a charge. It does require a WiFi connection though, and a subscription (a standard plan is £7.99 a month). I just wish there was an option to change the ring tone, as everyone's phone makes the same chime when there's somebody at the door.

MCN rating ★★★★★
www.en-uk.ring.com



One year ON TEST



BikeTek tyre warmers £199.99

'Easy confidence'



Tested by Carl Stevens for two years

Tyre warmers are awesome for grip and confidence, especially on cooler trackdays. These are a cracking option too, doing everything they promise for a solid price. They heat up quickly and, thanks to the sizeable side sections, they aid with heating the rim, which is vital to keep the temperature up when waiting in pitlane. They fit nicely, the Velcro is strong and the wiring is long enough to plug them in if your pit garage parking isn't too accurate either.

MCN rating ★★★★★
bikeittrade.com

Two years ON TEST