

RiDE

TELLS IT LIKE IT IS

Our product tests are carried out by real bikers with years of experience and on real bikes and are combined with empirical testing developed and carried out by qualified engineers.

WHAT THE TRIANGLES MEAN

For more than two decades, the RiDE Best Buy and Recommended triangles have stood for performance and value for money.



➤ A RiDE **Best Buy** award means that a product has been tested under real-world and, where appropriate, laboratory conditions to assess its performance in all relevant criteria and has excelled in its field, while offering exceptional value for money.



➤ A RiDE magazine **Recommended** triangle means that a product has either done an outstanding job at a higher price or a reasonable job but at a significantly lower price. So while not worthy of a Best Buy, it still performs very well in one of these criteria.

➤ The RiDE Best Buy and Recommended triangles stand for quality and value for money. Look for them when shopping.

VENTS

A hot head is an uncomfortable head, so see if the helmet has vents and if they are easily operated by a gloved hand. Vents can cause extra wind noise on a helmet at speed, so ensure they close securely when not in use. With an adventure lid, good venting at slow speed is also important for off-road use

PEAKS

A large peak may help when it comes to shading your eyes from the sun, but without decent air channelling it will act like a sail at speed, putting unwelcome strain on your neck muscles

REMOVABLE LINING

This is especially important if you are planning off-road use where you will exert yourself more and possibly even get the lid's lining dusty

VISOR REMOVAL

You may have to remove the visor to give it a serious clean. Check how easily this is achieved because, unlike road lids, adventure ones often lack quick-release visors



THE *RiDE* PRODUCT TEST

Adventure-style helmets

Looking for a lid to match your adventure bike?
Here are RiDE's pick of the crop

Words Jon Urry Pictures Simon Lee

YOUR TESTER



Jon Urry
Has ridden in more helmets than most
20-year served bike journalist and self-confessed geek Urry has tested more crash helmets in his career than he cares to remember. It does mean he is well-placed to know what works.

ADVENTURE BIKE SALES are on a high, with more and more riders turning to these high-bar do-it-all bikes for their two-wheeled transport. And this gradual change in motorcycle style also often necessitates a swap in kit as adventure bikes open up a whole new riding proposition – with many deciding a peaky lid is the way to go.

But choosing the right one can be a minefield. Pick the wrong one for you and you can end up with your neck wrenched by poor aerodynamics as

the peak battles the wind flow on the motorway, or sweating away with poor airflow if you ever head down a green-lane or get stuck in traffic. And that's aside from the normal helmet buying factors like noise, stability, venting and comfort.

With this in mind, we have assessed a selection of adventure lids for their riding ability at slow and high speeds and in every riding situation. With prices varying from £249.99 to £549.99, there is an adventure lid out there for most budgets. ➔

How we tested them

➤ **WEIGHT** Using a set of digital scales, we weighed each helmet as they would be ready for road use, which means any Pinlock systems fitted and the visor attached. A heavy lid can put extra strain on your neck, leading to fatigue, so a lightweight lid can be an advantage when it comes to touring, for example.

➤ **FEATURES** A simple visual checkpoint with items such as a Pinlock, helmet bag, removable lining, vents, integrated sun visor, peak extender, ability to use goggles and helmet fastener all assessed and scored.

➤ **EASE OF USE** Using a gloved hand, the lid's main features were assessed while riding a bike. We also assessed how quick and easy it was to remove the visor completely to allow it to be thoroughly cleaned.

➤ **NOISE** Using a sound pressure meter and a microphone located within the ear cavity of the crash helmet, we recorded the maximum interior noise levels at 60mph.

➤ **STABILITY AT SPEED** The peaks on adventure lids often cause excessive drag and lift, leading to neck ache. We



Testing involved riding and measuring noise levels

assessed how they coped with a 60mph ride.

➤ **COMFORT** Each lid was worn on our test route to assess its comfort levels at various speeds.

➤ **VENTING** The effectiveness of the vents were taken into account at both low and high-speed riding; crucial if you're heading off-road.

4 AGV AX-9 £399.99 (carbon version from £469.99) www.agv.co.uk

The AGV has a feeling of quality, with its visor removal screws metal (they do scuff a bit when undone) and the overall level of finish high. It's pleasingly light to wear and has a wide field of vision with a very comfortable lining. Although the peak can be adjusted, you need to fit inserts that reduce the visor's opening to do so, which is a bit annoying. AGV sells an Ark Intercom (£249.99 plus £14.99 adapter) for the AX-9.

On the road, the AGV feels plush with a huge field of vision and good sound deadening, though the peak does catch a bit in the wind when you raise your head, as it lacks aero cut-outs. The vents are effective and easy to locate and the chin vent's plastic cover can be removed for a good amount of low-speed airflow. A plush feeling lid but one whose peak does catch the wind, so not great for touring.



GOOD FOR COMFORT



THE FACTS

Construction Carbon-aramid-glass fibre
Actual weight 1549g
Integrated sun visor No
Fastening system D-rings
Number of vents 3
Pinlock Yes
Removable lining Yes
Compatible with goggles Yes

WIND NOISE
107.9dB
(at 60mph)

THE SCORES

COMFORT
■■■■■■■■■■■
EASE OF USE
■■■■■■■■■■■
FEATURES
■■■■■■■■■■■
VENTS
■■■■■■■■■■■
STABILITY
■■■■■■■■■■■

Total **40/50**

3 Nolan N70-2 X £249.99 (graphics from £279.99) www.motogear.co.uk

A lid pleasingly stacked full of features considering its low price tag, the Nolan has a removable chin bar that means it can also be used as an open face lid. Compatible with goggles, the peak is adjustable, there is an integrated sun visor, simple visor removal system (a Pinlock comes fitted) and as well as a five-year guarantee, the lid is ready for the N-Com communication system (£159.99).

Once on, the lid is very comfortable and feels roomy and the sun visor has a neat system where it locks in place to one of four positions, with a push of a button retracting it fully. On the road, the Nolan seems really loud with a load of wind noise (it recorded third-highest at 110.0dB), but its lining is very well padded and comfortable with a snug feel. The vents are a bit tricky to locate and aren't great at low speed but the peak is very stable when cruising and doesn't catch the in wind.



GOOD FOR STABILITY



THE FACTS

Construction Lexan polycarbonate
Actual weight 1788g
Integrated sun visor Yes
Fastening system Push-through
Number of vents 4
Pinlock Yes
Removable lining Yes
Compatible with goggles Yes

WIND NOISE
110.0dB
(at 60mph)

THE SCORES

COMFORT
■■■■■■■■■■■
EASE OF USE
■■■■■■■■■■■
FEATURES
■■■■■■■■■■■
VENTS
■■■■■■■■■■■
STABILITY
■■■■■■■■■■■

Total **41/50**

2 Shoei Hornet ADV £449.99 (graphics from £539.99)

www.shoeiassured.co.uk

RISE
MAGAZINE

RECOMMENDED

The Hornet ADV retains a visor-release mechanism similar to Shoei's road lids, meaning removing it takes seconds (the peak's fastenings are ¼ turn fixings). Nice features include a five-year warranty, ear pads to reduce noise levels, an intercom-ready interior, removable chin guard and breath deflector, an emergency quick-release lining system and a highly vented (non-adjustable) peak to reduce turbulence. Shoei recommends it is not worn without the visor and goggles.

Once you get over the quite-snug fit (it squeezes the cheeks slightly), on the road it's very comfortable. Surprisingly, there is quite a lot of wind noise but the large amount of venting on the peak ensures it doesn't catch and is very stable at speed. The vents are good at road speeds but don't provide a huge amount of airflow at low speed, making this more suited for pure road riders.



THE FACTS

Construction	Organic multi-fibre
Actual weight	1571g
Integrated sun visor	No
Fastening system	D-Ring
Number of vents	3
Pinlock	Yes
Removable lining	Yes
Compatible with goggles	No

WIND NOISE
109.8dB
(at 60mph)

THE SCORES

COMFORT	■■■■■■■■■■■
EASE OF USE	■■■■■■■■■■■
FEATURES	■■■■■■■■■■■
VENTS	■■■■■■■■■■■
STABILITY	■■■■■■■■■■■

Total **42/50**

1 Nexx X.WED2 £329.99 (graphics from £379.99)

www.nexx-helmets.com

RISE
MAGAZINE
BEST BUY

An outstanding lid in terms of its features, the Nexx does everything asked of it and comes with a five-year warranty. As well as an integrated sun visor, you get a Pinlock, peak extender, visor pouch, pads to alter the lining's fit, removable vent cover and a selection of parts to allow you to fit an intercom, helmet camera and even remove the visor entirely for use with goggles. Doing so is simple with no tools and the peak's angle can be altered by hand.

On the road, while the fit is snug, it is comfortable with a good field of vision, is fairly quiet, the sun visor is easily activated and it doesn't feel as heavy the scales say it is. The vents are effective and easily accessed with the chin vent's cover removable for low-speed air flow while the peak doesn't catch in the wind. An excellent do-it-all adventure lid that has very few negative points.



THE FACTS

Construction	Multiaxial fiberglass, fibre reinforcement
Actual weight	1788g
Integrated sun visor	Yes
Fastening system	D-rings
Number of vents	4
Pinlock	Yes
Removable lining	Yes
Compatible with goggles	Yes

WIND NOISE
107.4dB
(at 60mph)

THE SCORES

COMFORT	■■■■■■■■■■■
EASE OF USE	■■■■■■■■■■■
FEATURES	■■■■■■■■■■■
VENTS	■■■■■■■■■■■
STABILITY	■■■■■■■■■■■

Total **44/50**

► The quiet Nexx X.WED2 is a worthy winner of the test

'Adventure lids are incredibly complex bits of kit'

- ADVENTURE-STYLE HELMETS - THE *RiDE* VERDICT

The Nexx is our peaky blinder

ADVENTURE LIDS ARE

incredibly complex bits of kit – something that was highlighted during our test.

And unlike some tests, the results were very close, with just six points covering the best and worst lids.

Why was this? As adventure helmets are a relatively new trend, many manufacturers have started from scratch, using new design techniques. This is something that isn't always the case with road lids, as some brands often retain a certain style or way of producing a road lid.

Due to this, manufacturers have ensured their lids tick every box, leading to similar results. There are a few areas that some stand out but generally speaking, they

are all fairly close.

But there is always a winner and in this case, it is the Nexx X.WED2.

A lid so packed full of features yet still only just breaks the £300 bracket (making it the second cheapest in the test) the Nexx represents excellent value for money. Although a touch heavy, due to its features, this is a small sacrifice and it thoroughly deserves our Best Buy award. The Shoei Hornet ADV, Nolan N70-2 X and AGV AX-9 all deserve honourable mentions, though it is the Shoei that scoops the Recommended award.

NEXT MONTH...

Tailpacks tested back-to-back



Nexx X.WED2
£329.99

More features than you can shake a stick at, well priced and very comfortable to wear, the Nexx X.WED2 is an excellent lid for all kinds of adventure.



Shoei Hornet ADV
£449.99

If you want the look but don't plan on using goggles, the Shoei Hornet ADV has all the style of an adventure lid but with its focus on road riding.