

IN THESE WE TRUST...

Five *Bike* staffers on the gear they use every day



GARRY MEARS



MIKE ARMITAGE



SIMON WEIR



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BEN MILLER

> MAKE /MODEL	Dainese Bluetooth Air Course	Shoei X-Spirit	Shark RSR2	Shoei Raid 2	Arai RX-7 Corsair Edwards Valencia
> PRICE NEW	£300 race reps are £320	£380 (silver, custom Rich-Art paint is extra)	£320 replicas are £370	£250 (Rich-Art designs) £200 plain; £205 colours	£500 (plain colours and various replicas)
> WEIGHT	1487g	1318g	1501g	1442g	1488g
> USED FOR	two years	three years	two years	seven months	eight months
> LONGEST TRIP IN IT?	Went to London and back for a feature last year, approx 300 miles. Wore the lid all day.	Couple of thousand miles, but more importantly several 12 hour days.	900 miles (the Alps to Lincolnshire) in one hit.	<i>Bike</i> 440 trip featured in the <i>Bike</i> Garage.	2000 miles in five days.
> COMFY?	Very. The lining is very soft and plush with good support when new.	Oh yes. Snug, reassuring fit with no pressure points and beautifully light. Wear it all day.	Very. I know those who haven't got on with it, but it fits my head like a glove (without fingers).	Yes, though windblast from the naked Z750 does push it back onto my forehead at speed.	Not initially. The lining and padding are both superb but I had to break it in to fit me.
> HAS THE FIT CHANGED WITH USE?	It's gone a little loose now, especially around the cheek area, and is looking fairly shabby inside.	A little, as padding flattens. But it's no worse than any other helmet I've used; regains most of its form when washed.	After 15,000 miles and padding has packed down slightly - but not enough to change the fit.	Not noticeably. The lid was comfortable when I first got it during early summer and it's still fine now.	Yes, it's evolved from a little tight to beautifully snug.
> HOW NOISY IS IT?	Quietest lid I've ever worn. I think it's because it only has two vents and very smooth lines.	Not very. I always use earplugs, but even so it's probably the quietest helmet I've used.	Pretty quiet, but I still find earplugs necessary.	Quieter than Arais I've used in the past but not so quiet that you don't need earplugs.	Fairly noisy, but acceptable with earplugs.
> DO THE VENTS WORK?	They're okay - it's a bit warm in the summer, when the sun eventually arrives.	Yes, to the point where you can tell which are open. Equally important, they seal properly too.	Yes. Even better, they stop working when you shut them.	They do, especially the easy-to-use slide-open top vent.	Yes, very well.
> IS THE VISOR EASY TO SWAP?	Really easy. It has a quick-release lever at the visor mechanism, which pings the visor off then it's just a press and turn to get it back on.	Simple. Easy clip on each side - pull down, remove visor, clip new one in place. The work of mere moments.	Very. Move the little arms, press the button, lift off. It's not as quick as other visors, but it's robust and simple.	Changing visors is simple but the ratchet mechanism sometimes feels crude and overly notchy.	Yes, once you've had it demonstrated to you.
> DOES IT MIST?	Yep a little, even with a Pinlock insert fitted; it does have a nice little lever on the visor so you can open it slightly to clear quickly.	Don't be silly. It's supplied with Pinlock visor inserts, possibly the greatest invention ever.	Never. It has a coating and, more importantly, there's an anti-mist nose-guard to go into the lid so my glasses don't mist either.	Not with the Pinlock insert provided. It takes seconds to fit but once it's in, it's in.	Yes, it does. So I use a Pinlock which stops it.
> CONTACT	www.dainese.com	www.feridax.com	www.shark-helmets.com	www.feridax.com	www.phoenixnw.co.uk

CHECK FIT

BUYING A NEW LID, OR JUST MAKING SURE YOUR OLD ONE STILL FITS?



>1 Put the lid on, firmly enough to compress the comfort foam. It should feel snug - almost tight, but not painfully tight. Wear it for a few minutes. If it feels as if any bit of the lining is pressing more on one part of your head than another, don't buy it.



>2 Check that the fit's not too loose. Holding the sides firmly with both hands, try to twist the lid from side to side, then up and down. It should not move any further than a few millimetres as your cheeks stretch.



>3 The final test is for fastening. With the chin strap done up, grasp the back of the helmet and try to roll it forwards off your head. You should not be able to move it at all in this direction. You may want to ask a friend to try this test for you.