



Diablo offers comfort and protection for town riding

Wear shorts on your bike!

Forma has launched two new 'shortie' boots – the Diablo and Northwind.

The Diablo boot is designed to offer sports bike riders a comfortable yet protective option for urban riding and can easily be worn under bike or street clothing. The boot has toe sliders and is available in sizes 38–47 in black/silver. It costs £129.99.

The Northwind is an all-season option, combining the features of touring boot with the comfort of the ankle-length design. They're available in black, sizes 36–48 at £114.99. More info: www.planetknox.com

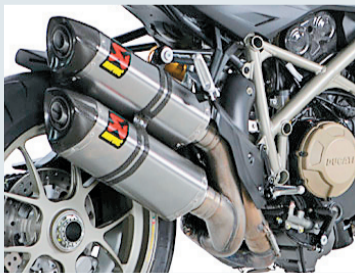
Exhausts for your exotica

Akrapovic and Zard have launched new exhausts for the Ducati Streetfighter and Aprilia Dorsoduro.

Akrapovic claims a 5bhp power increase and 2kg weight saving for its £818 option for the Aprilia supermoto. They've also just announced plans for a Streetfighter can.

Zard's Streetfighter system follows the stacked look of the originals. The £639 steel/899 titanium system and the Dorsoduro cans will be available from Speedycom.

Info: www.performanceparts-ltd.com; www.speedycom.co.uk.



Akrapovic Streetfighter cans...



...Zard's Streetfighter system

Shoei launches new XR1000 replacement

- ▶ Aggressive styling ▶ Spring-loaded visor ▶ Wider field of vision
- ▶ New venting system ▶ MCN tests the all-new XR1100 first



IN BARCELONA

Rob Hull
Products reporter

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Shoei has launched the long awaited replacement for the XR1000 helmet – the completely new XR1100 – and MCN was the first to test the aggressively-styled new lid.

The most significant change is the new visor system. The CX-IV visor used on the XR1000 has been replaced with the CW-1 that incorporates Shoei's new quick release self-adjustment system. The visor base plates are spring-loaded; when the visor is shut it is pulled by the springs so it locks tight to the visor seal. This system, which has been in development for three years, stops any air or water getting between the shell and the visor. The viewing aperture has also been enlarged for better peripheral vision.

The new shape, while more aggressive than the XR1000's shell, is also the result of extensive wind tunnel testing.

The shell is a six-layer construction with a mixture of fibreglass, organic and high performance fibres. And there will be four different shell sizes (compared to three for the XR1000).

The venting system has also been upgraded. Despite looking similar from the front, the top vents have a bigger intake and are slightly reshaped. The chin vent has a locking system to prevent air pressure forcing the vent open and the rear extractor vents have been upped from two to four.

The interior of the helmet is completely detachable and washable for the first time. A new cheek pad design 'hugs' around the bottom of your face in an attempt to reduce wind noise and six different cheek pad thicknesses are available.

The new helmet goes on sale in the UK in September and will cost £299.99 in plain colours and £379.99 if you go for one with graphics. Seven plain colours and a selection of graphic designs will be available.



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You'll still have a cool head even when it's over 30°C

ROB HULL

Riding impressions

MCN's Rob Hull was one of the first people to try the new helmet at the official launch in Barcelona last week. Here are his first impressions:

"The first thing you notice when you start riding in this helmet is the new visor system and the width of the view. The visor port has been made 6mm higher and 30mm longer – the result is a sensation of not having anything on your head, because you can't see any of the helmet interior. And the spring-loaded base plates work brilliantly – there's none of that constant light flow of air pushing past the visor and the seal straight into your eyes.

"The ventilation system is also well designed. In well over 30°C heat with all the vents open you could feel the inner lining around the top of the head was continuously cool. And the difference between having the chin vent open and closed is huge – a good thing to know for the changeable temperatures of motorcycling in the

UK. The overall weight of the XR1100 has also been reduced by 100g – and the previous model was by no means heavy.

"I still couldn't recommend you ride without earplugs though – the new cheek pads do cut out a fair bit of wind noise, but it's still got a way to go before reaching the sound-deadening qualities of a Schuberth lid.

"If you're a fan of the XR1000 you'll be mightily impressive with the 1100, and Shoei could steal a few new customers with the new looks too."

THE COMPETITION

Arai Chaser from £309.99



AGV T-2 from £279



Shark RSR2 V+ from £349.99



Exit vents on the back pull air through the helmet