

Living with products

MCN staff's riding kit rated

► We tell you about the kit we ride in – both good and bad – and gear we can't live without

SHOEI X-SPIRIT, £530 (FROM £299.99 ON MCN SHOP)



Tester: Marc Abbott
Miles covered/time: 3000 miles/four months

What's good? The lining is as plush as they come and really seems to hug my head, the visor opens and closes in satisfyingly incremental clicks, the visor lock is a gem, the venting is as effective as anything else I've ever used and (call me shallow) the profile of the helmet is the most aggressive on the market.

It was comfy from the off – not too much pressure on the brow or temples – and the padding is showing no sign of going 'baggy' with age as it can on other lids. Wind noise is cancelled effectively by an exceptional visor seal.

As a bonus, no one else is wearing an X-Spirit (or any other lid, I'd bet) with this paintjob, thanks to an extra couple of hundred quid sent in the direction of UK-based helmet painting supremo Rich Stevens of Rich-Art Concepts (0121-354-7567).

What's not? In truth, I'm struggling to think of anything – you can't even knock the price when you consider what you can pick an X-Spirit up for on the MCN online shop.

Contact: www.shoeiassured.co.uk
Rating: ★★★★★



Guinea pigs and baby Gracie are NOT a Shoei option

HEIN GERICKE TRICKY III GORE-TEX JACKET £309.99 GORE-TEX PANTS £229.99



Tester: Liam Marsden
Miles covered/time: Two months/1000 miles

What's good? The jacket is comfy, light and has kept me dry even in the most monsoon-like rain as it has two zips at the front instead of one to make sure the wind and rain stays out. I rarely bother to fasten both, but no water or wind ever gets through – the thermal lining also keeps me lovely and warm on cold mornings on the A1.

The pants are as good as the matching jacket. They're incredibly waterproof and, with the thermal lining attached, keep my legs incredibly snug. There are no fancy colours or

masses of pockets; they just do what they're supposed to do and do it well.

What's not? So far the only problem I've encountered with this jacket is the sleeves and cuffs. The cuffs only zip shut – there's no Velcro to tighten them around your wrists and the arms are a bit short for me, meaning sometimes the cuffs on my gloves slip off the arms and the wind travels up the inside of the sleeves.

I'm not sure if there are any downsides with these trousers. The left leg always rides up above my boots on long journeys, but I seem to experience this with all textile trousers.

Contact: www.hein-gericke.co.uk
Rating: ★★★★★



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World Superbike heritage and 20,000-mile tappet intervals – neat.
WHAT TO PAY
£750 (Needs work)
£1200 (Mot'd & taxed)
£2750 (As new)

1985 SUZUKI GSX-R750
Oil-cooled '80s rapier; world-changing then, cooler than Converse now.
WHAT TO PAY
£800 (Needs work)
£1500 (Mot'd & taxed)
£2200 (As new)



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