



USED PRODUCTS

TESTING IN PROGRESS

➤ SHARK RACE-R

£340-£360
AND RACE-R PRO
£500-£550

www.shark-helmets.com

Fit is king with crash helmets and I'm fortunate that Shark's top-end lids both fit me like proverbial gloves. Little surprise there, as the interiors are identical. Both are high-spec composite fibre helmets, though the Pro uses an ultra-lightweight carbon/aramid mix, saving 75g. It also has a double spoiler between the two rear vents.

Both have a simple-to-use visor that offers an enormous field of vision and reassuring thickness: 4mm in the centre, 3mm at the edge (£75 for a tinted replacement). You get noticeably more peripheral vision than with other helmets I've used.

The venting in both is excellent, though there is some danger of mist. This can be combatted by fitting the rubber breath-mask – markedly more surgical-appliance-like and less lovely than the one in the old Shark RSR2, but just as effective. It comes as standard with the Pro but is £25 extra for the standard Race-R. It's vital because it keeps my glasses mist free.



One feature of both lids does annoy me – the magnetic catch for the helmet strap. I liked this feature at first, but high collars (and I favour a high collar on textile jackets) can knock it loose, at which point the strap flaps about annoyingly and sometimes painfully. This represents one flaw on two otherwise outstanding helmets.

The price difference isn't to be sniffed at, but for me the Pro definitely seems worth the extra. It feels much more than 75g lighter, giving a noticeable edge in all-day comfort, it comes with the breath mask and just feels more special, somehow.

➤ **Exceptional helmets with one minor flaw**
Simon Weir

TESTED FOR
580 MILES



Lightweight roll-top 40-litre bag can take on pantechincons

◀ GIVI TWO1 HOLDALL

£57.48

www.givi.co.uk

Only last month I was writing about how this lightweight bag was proving durable and waterproof. And then just before heading out on a weekend trip, I made a mess of strapping it to our Bandit and after 20 miles it jumped off. The bag was run over by several trucks before coming to a rest on the hard shoulder. Most of the breakable contents had broken, but the bag itself almost survived. The buckles broke, and there's a tiny tear in the fabric, so it will no longer be waterproof, but it's clearly made of very strong stuff.

➤ **Much tougher than it looks**
Colin Overland

