

REVIEWS: HELMETS

» Bell

QUALIFIER

\$110, \$250 DLX, \$270 MIPS

SHAPE Intermediate oval

COMFORT ●●●●

NOISE REDUCTION ●●

QUALITY/FINISH ●●●●

SHIELD FUNCTION ●●●●

WEIGHT 3.75 pounds XXL



FEATURES Transitions shield on DLX models, anti-fog, intercom ready, polycarbonate shell, 3 shell sizes, ECE.

PROS DLX and MIPS add a Transitions shield that automatically tints in UV light, and is excellent (MCN, 9/16). MIPS is Bell's multi-direction impact protection system, designed to improve energy displacement on impact. The helmet is also comparably lightweight. The best thing about it is the advanced Transitions lens at a reasonable overall price.

CONS A noisy, budget helmet that fits a bit large. The shield costs more than the helmet it's attached to—don't scratch it.

OVERALL RATING ●●●●

—Russell Evans

bellhelmets.com

» HJC

RPHA 11 PRO

\$400 solid, \$450 graphic, \$600-\$700 Marvel, Star Wars

SHAPE Intermediate oval

COMFORT ●●●●

NOISE REDUCTION ●●●●

QUALITY/FINISH ●●●●

SHIELD FUNCTION ●●●●

WEIGHT 3.44 pounds XL



FEATURES Clear and tinted shields and Pinlock insert lens included, eyewear compatible, emergency cheekpad release, intercom ready, composite shell, 3 shell sizes, ECE.

PROS Excellent ventilation, licensed graphics options include renditions of Marvel and Star Wars characters, Pinlock is an excellent anti-fog solution and it comes with two shields. This became my go-to helmet for comfort, anti-fog and plain fun.

CONS Have to manually switch shields from tinted to clear. A bit noisy. Hard press to snap shield from open to sealed.

OVERALL RATING ●●●●

—David Hilgendorf

hjchelmets.us

» Bell

STAR

\$450 solid, \$500 graphic

SHAPE Intermediate oval

COMFORT ●●●●●

NOISE REDUCTION ●●●●

QUALITY/FINISH ●●

SHIELD FUNCTION ●

WEIGHT 4.1 pounds XL



FEATURES Eyewear compatible, magnetic cheekpads, composite shell, 5 shell sizes, Snell and ECE-certified.

PROS Fit and finish are fantastic, snug, comfortable, vents well and looks great. Worn daily for a month, until it failed.

CONS No antifog or pinlock compatibility out of the box. Not intercom friendly. The EPS cover at the base of the neck came unglued. Bell says a running production change was made to correct this. The quick-release shield button popped out while raising the shield, leaving the shield dangling. We found the piece and put it back together, but the helmet was retired.

OVERALL RATING ●●●●

—David Hilgendorf

bellhelmets.com

» Nexx

XT1 CARBON ZERO

\$550

SHAPE Long oval

COMFORT ●●●●●

NOISE REDUCTION ●●●●●

QUALITY/FINISH ●●●●●

SHIELD FUNCTION ●●●●●

WEIGHT 3.25 pounds XXL



FEATURES Drop-down visor, intercom ready, Pinlock ready, ratchet chin strap, carbon fiber shell, 3 shell sizes, ECE.

PROS The carbon fiber construction not only looks great, but feels solid and is incredibly lightweight. The drop-down visor is easy to lower and raise with a sliding lever atop the helmet (gloves on). Dual vents have easy opening/closing.

CONS Sizing fits a bit small and was a disappointment. The anti-slip ratcheting strap is secure, but barely reached the clasp. The shield can be difficult to open. High-pitched and annoying whistle occurred at speed on one side of shield.

OVERALL RATING ●●●●●

—Russell Evans

nexxnorthamerica.com

» Scorpion

AT950

\$270 solid, \$290 graphics

SHAPE Intermediate oval

COMFORT ●●●●

NOISE REDUCTION ●●●

QUALITY/FINISH ●●●●

SHIELD FUNCTION ●●●●

WEIGHT 3.9 pounds XL



FEATURES Drop-down visor, modular, removable peak visor, wide and tall eyepoint, anti-fog shield, eyewear compatible, intercom ready, polycarbonate shell, 3 shell sizes, ECE.

PROS Stylish, comfortable, affordable and can be worn either off-road, with an eyepoint big enough for goggles and the peak attached, or quickly swapped out to a more aggressive road-worthy lid with shield installed, peak removed and a drop-down visor. Chinbar offers easy open-face access in either configuration. Excellent comfort, engineering and value.

CONS It's somewhat noisy and the peak isn't ideal at speed.

OVERALL RATING ●●●●

—David Hilgendorf

scorpionusa.com

» Scorpion

COVERT

\$210 black, \$230 graphics

SHAPE Round

COMFORT ●●●●

NOISE REDUCTION ●●

QUALITY/FINISH ●●●●

SHIELD FUNCTION ●●●●

WEIGHT 3.55 pounds XXL



FEATURES Polycarbonate shell, drop-down visor, 3-in-1: full face, three-quarter or half-shell via removable mask.

PROS It's all about appearance. If you accept the risks of riding in less-than-full face protection, but require a DOT legal helmet, there probably isn't a more bad-ass style statement on the market. Easy to assemble and disassemble parts.

CONS This is a half-helmet—lower portions are cosmetic only—therefore it is loud, DOT only and not ECE-rated. Fit is loose, so it moves around a little in the wind. Little warmth when riding in cool temperatures.

OVERALL RATING ●●●●

—Russell Evans

scorpionusa.com

» Shark

RACE-R PRO

\$750 graphics

SHAPE Intermediate oval

COMFORT ●●

NOISE REDUCTION ●●

QUALITY/FINISH ●●●

SHIELD FUNCTION ●●●●

WEIGHT 3.7 pounds XL



FEATURES Eyewear compatible, anti-scratch and anti-fog shield, magnetic chin strap clip, intercom ready, carbon fiber shell, 2 shell sizes, ECE-certified.

PROS As a helmet designed for racers, it is lightweight, aerodynamic and has excellent airflow.

CONS Racer helmets are not ideal for street riding, and this is a good example. It's noisy and fit is incredibly snug, apparently designed for smaller (perhaps Euro-sized) heads. It isn't even available in XXL. We didn't enjoy the fit, the volume, the magnetic strap retainer, the build quality or the high price.

OVERALL RATING ●●●

—David Hilgendorf

us.shark-helmets.com

» Shoei

NEOTEC

\$650 solid, \$750 graphics

SHAPE Intermediate oval

COMFORT ●●●●●

NOISE REDUCTION ●●●●●

QUALITY/FINISH ●●●●●

SHIELD FUNCTION ●●●●●

WEIGHT 3.8 pounds L



FEATURES Modular chinbar, Pinlock EVO fog-resistant insert, anti-fog shield and drop-down visor, intercom ready, composite shell, 3 shell sizes, ECE-certified.

PROS Six months of daily commuting created appreciation for the snug, but comfortable, fit and flawless finish, excellent airflow and minimal wind drag or noise at speed. The stainless steel chinbar locking mechanism feels solid. Shoei has managed to eliminate all of the negatives normally associated with modularity by building a light, but sturdy and quiet, helmet.

CONS It's pricey.

OVERALL RATING ●●●●●

—Moshe Levy

shoei-helmets.com