

tried&tested

Skid lid



Matt loved everything about the new AGV helmet apart from, ironically, the matte finish

AGV K-5 S

High five!

AGV HELMETS HAVE been in production for more than 70 years and have become synonymous with not only Valentino Rossi but also consistent high quality.

This latest sports offering from the Italian helmet powerhouse doesn't disappoint, with a lightweight shell made from a carbon-fiberglass composite. It also comes with a new construction for the inner liner that feels incredibly comfortable to wear, so when this lid turned up at the office my expectations were very high.

What we liked

Every feature on the K-5 S delivers. The first thing I liked was the options in medium shell sizes. It meant I could get the exact fit for my melon, and when I chose my size I went for something that felt initially snug. After the first wearing-in period it felt pretty much spot on.

The built-in tinted visor is a must-have these days – it's

common in high-end helmets and really helps reduce glare.

Field of vision is superb and the Integrated Ventilation System keeps the air flowing with a simple open or shut option on top – tested in the Moroccan desert no less!

I used it through some very strong buffeting winds and it passed with flying colours.

The visor also has a micro opening system so you can set it at just the right height. I even passed the visor-change IQ test first go. It's simple.

Styling-wise, I really liked the matte finish and graphics, and with the aerodynamic spoilers and scalloped sections it looks every bit a sports helmet.

I felt like I was wearing an expertly crafted piece of protection for my head that comes at a reasonable price.

What we didn't like

Despite loving it, the only thing I am sceptical about is the matte



PROS

- Price
- Comfort
- Fit

CONS

- Matte finish

Colours Darkstorm Matte Black/Yellow, Darkstorm Matte Black/Red, Hurricane Black/Red/White, Hurricane Black/Gunmetal/White, Black, Matte Black, Pearl White, Thorn 46 Matte Black, Fireplace Black/Italy, Fireplace Black/Red, Marble Matte Black/White/Red, Magnitude Black/Red, Magnitude Black/Silver, Marble Matte Black/White/Blue

Sizes S-MS-ML-L-XL-2XL

\$549

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finish. A matte finish looks fantastic but I'm always worried about marking it. This seems like a really high-quality finish, so maybe AGV has it sorted.

Verdict

The K-5 S has seen action in almost all environments, from an adventure ride to the open road and city streets, basically everywhere except a race track.

It's a solid all-round performer that handled all sorts of weather.

At \$549 I think it is excellent value, with maybe the stand-out feature being the added medium shell size.

MATT O'CONNELL

BMW StreetGuard 3 textile suit



Three-season stunner

I **COVETED** BMW'S StreetGuard gear for a couple of years before I finally convinced BMW to fling me a suit way back in 2010.

Now, eight years on, I probably love this suit even more. There have been many pants and jackets before and since, but if cold and wet is around, I have never worn anything more reliably warm and dry than the BMW-branded StreetGuard 3 jacket and pants. Ever.

The garb is so great that it's virtually unusable in summer. But it's not for lack of trying or technology; this stuff uses what's called a bionic climate membrane. Similar to the pores of your skin, it somehow senses that it's hot and the fabric within relaxes for improved breathability. Likewise, when it's cold, it clamps tight to better insulate you. Don't ask me how, I've no idea. But I know it's

delightfully toasty in winter, and cooler than it ought to be when the mercury starts to rise. It runs another fancy fabric technology, too, called ColdBlack, which BMW says reflects the sun's heat for longer, meaning you stay cooler longer.

The fabrics within the StreetGuard 3 range are all the work of Switzerland-based Schoeller Textiles, which has been around for more than 100 years and specialises in innovative and pioneering textile technologies. So, while it might be easy to roll your eyes at some of these claims, this stuff really, really is something else.

Despite the tens of thousands of kilometres I've ridden in this gear, there's not one inkling of a rip or scuff



save for one small wear mark on the soft leather neck cuff – mind you, there are oodles of marks that I can't clean or wash off (despite desperately trying).

It came with a removable storm collar, which I've long since lost, and has really well thought out pockets; two big deep internal ones, a third radiation-proof one (yes, really) for your mobile phone, and two intuitively placed external ones.

Despite it feeling stiff and uncomfortable when you first don it, the top-quality armour soon warms and softens and moulds itself to your body, which it will protect without doubt.

The only thing I don't love about this gear is that over a long day it tends to feel heavy, and the full-length back protector can sometimes touch the back of my helmet if I'm riding a bike that urges me to slouch.

But there is nothing in my riding-gear cupboard that I love more. And I'm stoked that there isn't a single sign of it not serving me equally as well for the next decade as it has for the last.

Quality like this comes at a price – it was a suit that retailed for well over \$2000 almost 10 years ago – but if it's taught me anything it's that high-quality gear is worth every cent.

KEL BUCKLEY

Today's equivalent

STREETGUARD SUIT

No number these days, it's simply named StreetGuard. It's just as clever and just as reliable but benefits from a decade of improved technologies and refinements.

There are now ventilation zippers on the pants (mine don't have these) and also a tech-savvy multimedia pocket within the jacket.

Available in a large range of both men's and women's sizes in anthracite, anthracite/red or black colour options.



Dririder Vortex 2 Jacket and Vortex 2 Pants

High and dry

DRIRIDER IS ONE of the best-known brands in Australian motorcycling apparel, and just as I was faced with a recent touring trip where I had to prepare for anything, the Vortex jacket and pants arrived.

Even though these aren't the brand's top-spec adventure models, there are ample pockets and both feature waterproof and thermal liners. Throw in the CE-

approved armour, a high-density foam back pad, plus stretch panels as and where you need them, and you have some of the best value-for-money gear going. Look for a full test in an upcoming issue.

Jacket from

\$469.95

Pants from

\$329.95

☎ 1300 300 191

🌐 www.dririder.com.au

