

Head Wear

They've come a long way. Just check out the latest offerings from these helmet manufacturers, and you'll see what we mean. Lightweight space-age carbon fiber isn't a futuristic material anymore; it's here and now. Kevlar is not only good for stopping bullets, but it's also great for protecting your head. Flip-up chin bars are a convenient way to make your helmet an open-air "convertible." Venting cool air in and ducting hot air out of a helmet has become an aerodynamic science. You can customize the fit of most helmets with interchangeable interior components or inflatable air bladders, and fog on your visor is all but a thing of the past. We here at *RoadBike* have long been proponents of proper riding gear, especially helmets, and we hope this 2007 Helmet Buyers Guide helps you make the right selection. No matter what your style, taste, or budget, there's a helmet here for you. Wear one.

AFX

877/686-6477

www.AFXHelmets.com

The FX-77 has a tough thermo-plastic poly-alloy shell with an aerodynamic design and a beautiful clear coat finish. The hypoallergenic nylon liner and cheek pads are removable and washable, and the forehead vents offer good airflow. The flush-fit faceshield is scratch-resistant and flips up when not in use.



Shown: FX-77
\$64.95

ALLTOP

www.AlltopHelmet.com

Alltop is a new company on the scene that offers helmets for motorcycling as well as bicycling and skiing in carbon/Kevlar or polycarbonate. The AP989PC is a polycarbonate version that comes in full-face design. It's available in red, yellow, blue, and silver graphic patterns.



Shown: AP989PC
\$90

AGV

800/950-9006

www.AGV.com

The AGV GT S-4 full-face helmet has a shell made from Kevlar. The liners are fully removable and made from washable CoolMax hygienically treated fabrics. There's an easy-fit shield mechanism called the Extra Quick Release System (XQRS), which provides shield replacement without tools in just a few seconds.



Shown: GT S-4
\$259.95

BELL HELMETS

800/552-3678

www.BellHelmets.com

The Bell Apex Double Crossed Blue Matte helmet has an aerodynamic, lightweight Kevlar-composite shell, padded chin strap, and double D-ring closure with a strap keeper. The flip-down shield has NutraFog anti-fog, anti-scratch, and UV protection applied. There's an adjustable flow-through ventilation system for cooling, comfort, and shield defogging.



Shown: Apex Double Crossed
\$209.95

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BIEFFE

925/454-1055

www.BieffeAmerica.com

Bieffe's RT helmets use a light-weight composite thermoplastic-resin shell. A non-pivoting shield provides a quieter ride with excellent ratcheting, while adjustable scalp and chin vents, along with a moisture-absorbent plush liner, help keep you comfortable. It's DOT and SNELL approved.



Shown: RT
\$149.95

JOE ROCKET

800/343-5984

www.JoeRocket.com

Joe Rocket, famous for its motorcycle apparel line, has just released its first full-face helmet product. The RKT 101 has a fiberglass Spectra composite-weave shell, and it meets or exceeds SNELL M2005 and DOT standards. There's a quad-port ventilation system and a removable, washable interior system that wicks away moisture.



Shown: Rocket Science
\$269.99

FULMER

800/489-2300

www.FulmerHelmets.com

The DOT-approved Fulmer AFD4 helmet has an EPS padded chin bar, breath spoiler, and a plush removable and washable interior. The D-ring retention strap is padded for extra comfort, and the windscreen features a QR1 quick-release-shield system. The exterior has UV clear coating, protecting the paint and graphics.



Shown: AFD4 Apache Black and Blue
\$94.95

M2R

800/325-3673

www.MCStuff.com

The new MR 660 street helmet from M2R offers great quality and style at a great price. Features include a thermoplastic shell, EPS inner liner, D-ring retention system, removable interior, and a quick-release shield. Plus, the MR 660 meets or exceeds DOT standards and is SNELL M2005 certified.



Shown:
\$89.95

HJC

562/407-2186

www.HJCHelmets.com

Carbon fiber is known for strength, durability, and light weight; thus, the HJC AC-12 Carbon full-face helmet weighs a mere 1,424 grams (around 3 pounds). The scratch-resistant hard-coated shield has an anti-fog treatment from the factory. It has a built-in communication system speaker cavity, and a deluxe helmet storage bag is included.



Shown: AC-12 Carbon Vader
\$419.99

MOMO DESIGN

312/214-3513

www.MomoHelmets.com

The Momo Fighter open-face helmet is inspired by the original shape of helicopter helmets. The helmet has handcrafted finishings and is attached to an anti-scratch bubble visor reinforced by a carbon fiber panel. The shell has a special environmentally friendly matte rubberized coating enhanced by the Momo Design logo.



Shown: Fighter
\$398

ICON

805/404-7993

www.Ridelcon.com

The Icon Eternal Saint is based on the popular Icon Mainframe helmet. It's constructed of a Dyneema/fiberglass composite and is lined with a dual-density styrene liner for incredible strength without undue weight. It features removable/washable cheek pads and removable breath deflector, and requires no tools for a quick-change, fog-free shield.



Shown: Eternal Saint
\$290

NOLAN HELMETS

866/2-HELMET

www.Nolan.it

The Nolan N-COM communication system allows riders to communicate using Bluetooth technology. Owners can equip it to answer a phone, listen to music, allow a GPS to guide them, or talk with a passenger. There are three models: a flip-up, an open-face, and a full-face.



Shown: N-102 N-COM
\$315.95-374.95

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SCHUBERTH

800/499-5042 www.ExtremeSupply.com

The Schubert S1 Street Helmet has carbon fiber shell construction and a modular EPS inner shock liner. High-speed wind tunnel testing provides a low noise rating of 85 dB at 62 mph. It has an integrated retractable sun visor and an optically perfect quick-release, hard-coated, anti-fog-treated clear face shield.



Shown: S1
\$699

SUOMY

800/524-9938 www.Suomy-USA.com

Suomy's Spec-1R Extreme offers the lightest weight (1,250 grams) race-approved helmet available utilizing structurally enhanced composite fiber weave. It has removable, washable cheek pads and a comfort liner that allows for a custom fit. Also standard is the safety-lock visor system and breath deflector. The Alcantara liner is a soft, perforated chamois-like fabric.



Shown: Spec 1-R Extreme
\$649.95

SCORPION

888/672-6774 www.ScorpionUSA.com

Scorpion offers the EXO-1000 helmet equipped with The HelmetPump, which permits a rider to personalize helmet fit through air-adjustable cheek pads and SpeedView, which is an internal retractable sun visor. The fiberglass/Kevlar shell is quiet with wind tunnel-tested comfort. The EverClear no-fog face shield is optically correct.



Shown: EXO-1000
\$299.95-\$329.95

Z1R

www.Z1RHelmets.com

The Nomad comes in pinstripe, skull, stripe, and American graphic themes. All feature a removable ear/neck curtain and a fully adjustable venting system. Dual forehead vents are closeable and put air directly into the helmet. The advanced ABS/polycarbonate alloy shell exceeds DOT standards. It has a comfortable brushed-nylon interior with padded chin strap.



Shown: Nomad Pinstripe
\$69.95

SHARK

800/777-7073 www.Shark-HelmetsUS.com

The Full Face RSX HoloYang has a shell that is made from carbon/Kevlar multidirectional composite fibers. There are two shell sizes, with multi-element internal shock absorbers with differentiated density. The interior is adjustable and removable. It has integrated airflow ducts and an F-1-type enhanced 3mm visor.



Shown: RSX HoloYang
\$449.95

ZAMP

www.Zamp-Racing.com

The Zamp FJ2's outer shell is made from composite thermoplastic resin with an incorporated spoiler and features scalp, chin, and rear ventilation. The exterior is covered in attractive matte graphics, and the shield can be changed with no tools. The interior is removable and washable, and the FJ meets or exceeds DOT requirements.



Shown: FJ2
\$99.95

SHOEI

714/730-0941 www.Shoei-Helmets.com

Shoei set out to replace their Syncrotec helmet with a better flip-up. The Multitec has an advanced aerodynamic shape, easy to use ventilation and face cover locking mechanisms, and customizable interior padding. The face cover lock utilizes strong metal pins, and a large actuation button is easy to use even with gloved hands.



Shown: Multitec
\$482.99

ZOX

800/363-0808 www.ZoxHelmets.com

The Zox Hi Quest R flip-up helmet has a removable, washable CoolMax lining. The chin bar-opening system uses a single-button release and features aerodynamic and Aerotech technology, which reduce noise and turbulence. The shield is made of optically correct polycarbonate, which is fog, scratch, and UV-resistant.



Shown: Hi Quest R
\$159.95

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HELMET CARE 101

I don't know anyone who wants to spend time wearing a helmet that smells or looks nasty — especially on the inside. And anyone who wears his or her helmet a lot is going to have to face these issues sooner or later.

First and foremost, follow the manufacturer's recommendations for the proper way and time to care for your helmet. The maker would know best. Always use the mildest soap possible and avoid petroleum-based cleaning fluids or strong cleaning agents that can erode the helmet and damage its components.

The Outside

You can clean the outside of your helmet with products designed for automotive cleaning and polishing. Most glossy helmets are finished with an automotive-type base coat/clear coat finish. Rubbing compounds can be used for deep cleaning to remove light scratches and scuffs. Remember that stickers and decals will leave adhesive residue if removed, but you can take it off with alcohol swabs, followed by soap and water.

For flat-finish (non-glossy) helmets, use warm water and mild soap only. Do not use excessive pressure or rubbing compounds while cleaning the surface, because a "glossy" effect could be created, ruining the flat matt finish.

The Inside

Sweat, humidity, and dirt can cause the fabric and stitching to deteriorate, causing odor. One good solution is to remove your helmet's inner lining, wash it by hand, and then let it air-dry. For non-removable interiors, use bacteria- and mildew-eliminating products such as Helmet Fresh. Want to avoid sweat and dirt in your helmet? Try wearing a cotton bandana or do-rag under your helmet.

Vents

Dirt and debris can build up in the vents of your helmet. You can use compressed air cans (computer keyboard spray) to blow the debris from the vent system. It's a good idea to remove all pads before doing this. Do not use the high pressure from a garage compressor, which could do damage.

Modifications

Modifying your helmet is never a good idea, because it may weaken the structure and increase your risk of serious injury or death

in an accident. Never modify your helmet by drilling holes, cutting the shell, liner, or strap, modifying the retention system, removing parts, or attaching accessories other than properly designed intercom devices.

Chemicals

When storing a helmet, try to keep it away from gasoline, chemicals, exhaust fumes, and excessive heat. The inner lining of a motorcycle helmet is likely to disintegrate faster when exposed to any of these elements. Read the manufacturer's instructions about painting, decorating, pinstriping, or applying decals to your helmet, because glues, paints, and household cleaners can warp the outer shell of the helmet. Never use petroleum-based solvents to clean your helmet; always use water-soluble cleansers. In general, cleaning the outer and inner components of your helmet can be done with mild soap and warm water.

Storage

You should store your helmet in a cool, dry place away from pets and other animals. And as stated earlier in this article, keep your helmet away from excessive heat and chemicals. Using a helmet bag is a good idea. Proper helmet care also means not dropping it on hard surfaces. Never hang your helmet on the motorcycle's mirrors, turn signals, or sissy bar. The inner liner can easily be damaged.

Replacing Your Helmet

Most manufacturers recommend replacing your helmet every two to four years. If you notice any signs of damage, replace it sooner. Since 1974, all helmets have the month and date of production stamped on them. You can check the chin strap or permanent labeling for this date.

Your helmet is designed to absorb the impact of an accident, so it is important to replace it after significant impact. Even if you do not see significant damage, strong impacts can create cracks and other unseen structural damage that could compromise your safety on the next impact. Because damage to a helmet is not always easy to spot, it's safer to just replace it. Hey, it's your head. ■