

PRODUCT TEST

»In the lab«

I CAN SEE CLEARLY NOW...

RiDE's revival of motorcycling's most respected product tests for 2008 starts with anti-fog visor treatments and inserts

Words **Ollly Crick** Pictures **Mark Manning**



RIDE is back in the swing of full-time product testing in 2008 after a brief gap. The size of the mailbag made us very aware that you wanted to see a return of the most thorough investigative tests in motorcycling.

So we've identified 12 areas of motorcycling to explore over the year ahead, covering everything from textile clothing to tyre pressure gauges to - next month - thermals.

They will be as in-depth as ever, covering technical and real-world tests. They will give you an idea of how your kit stacks up with what's on the market, as well as helping you spend your money wisely.

We're starting with visor anti-mist products in this issue and our plan is to test this lot in 2008, but email tony.hoare@emap.com if you think we're off-target.

APRIL: Thermals

MAY: Textile suits

JUNE: Tankbags

JULY: Back protectors

AUGUST: Leather jackets and jeans

SEPTEMBER: Chains and locks

OCTOBER: Rucksacks

NOVEMBER: Waterproof boots

DECEMBER: Winter gloves

JANUARY: Rust inhibitors

FEBRUARY: Tyre pressure gauges

How we did it

Every anti-fog treatment was applied to a brand new Shoei visor according to the manufacturer's instructions, then fitted to a Shoei XR-1000 lid. Using a brand new visor for each product ensured they all had their best chance of working and that there was no cross-contamination of products.

The outside ambient temperature was noted at the start and end of every product's test, ensuring the same temperature throughout. The tester wore a winter jacket and neck-tube before putting the helmet on and we checked each product's claims by breathing out heavily, five times. If misting occurred, we noted how badly (see the results on the pictures with each product's write-up). We tested each product in still air at 3°C, and in front of a leaf-blower, used to simulate airflow around a helmet when on



Simulating airflow while riding

One new visor per product ensured fairness



the move, this time at 1°C. All product applications and tests were repeated three times to ensure the accuracy of our results. To back up these repeatable tests, products were also tested with a 60mph ride.

Scoring

Five points go to treatments that don't allow visors to fog when tested in airflow.

A further five points are awarded to treatments that prevented fogging in still air. We award four points per test to treatments if visors misted in small patches after a good deal of provoking.

Two points are awarded if a treatment prevented fogging, but turned smeary and greasy looking in patches.

No points are awarded to treatments that allowed visors to fog up, or go smeary and greasy to the point of blurring vision.

In addition, ease of use is scored out of five to reflect fitting and convenience

The maximum overall score is 15.

1 Pinlock

Price £18

Contact 01384 413841
or www.feridax.com



Tester's notes

A great result in all conditions, with no misting. It seals to the visor with a bead seal so it can be removed or swapped for a tinted version. The downsides are a slight reflection from oncoming headlights, caused by the double skin, and the need to drill holes and insert mounting pins if your visor doesn't come with them. The best option if your helmet has the pins.

Moving air	████████████████████	5/5
Still air	████████████████████	5/5
Ease of use	████████████████████	5/5
Total	████████████████████	15/15

2 Fog Tech

Price £10 for 12 sachets

Contact 0870 908 9880
or www.visorvision.co.uk



Tester's notes

This is a great product that worked well in all conditions we tested, leaving no fogging. It's a wipe in a sachet that can be used several times so long as the wipe stays moist. Rub it on the inside of your visor, leave to dry for five seconds and it's ready to use. It dries quickly, unlike some liquid products in this test. The makers say it can be used on glasses and goggles too.

Moving air	████████████████████	5/5
Still air	████████████████████	5/5
Ease of use	██████████████████	4/5
Total	████████████████████	14/15

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3 Fog City Hyper Optiks

Price £29.99
 Contact 01782 569800
 or www.phoenixnw.co.uk



Tester's notes

Worked brilliantly in all tests with no fogging. Only downside is a slight reflection in the visor caused by the double skin, but it's not noticeable when riding. This Hyper Optiks version has light-reactive properties and darkens in sunlight (a basic, clear version is £16). Fog City self-adheres to the visor (this model has slots to fit round Pinlock pins).

Moving air	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background-color: red;"></div>	5/5
Still air	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background-color: red;"></div>	5/5
Ease of use	<div style="width: 80%; height: 10px; background-color: red;"></div>	4/5
Total	<div style="width: 93.3%; height: 10px; background-color: red;"></div>	14/15

4 Respro Foggy mask

Price £13.99
 Contact 0800 165165
 or www.hein-gericke.com



Tester's notes

This attaches into the helmet by Velcro and is fiddly to fit first time but it's worth the effort as it worked well, preventing visor fogging in all conditions we tested. But it can make putting your lid on a little more uncomfortable as your face has to squeeze past the mask, and wearing glasses would be awkward as it's fairly bulky on the rider's nose, hence the lack of a RiDE triangle. There's a slight reflection in the visor too.

Moving air	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background-color: red;"></div>	5/5
Still air	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background-color: red;"></div>	5/5
Ease of use	<div style="width: 60%; height: 10px; background-color: red;"></div>	3/5
Total	<div style="width: 88.3%; height: 10px; background-color: red;"></div>	13/15

5 Bob Heath Fog Demon

Price £14.99
 Contact 01922 614747
 or www.bobheathvisors.co.uk



Tester's notes

Like Fog City, this insert self-adheres to the inside of the visor. It was tricky to get placed perfectly (and didn't fit round our visor's Pinlock pins), but it worked well without any misting at all in still air. The tester could see slight reflections in the visor, but these weren't noticeable when riding. The riding test showed no fog where the insert was applied.

Moving air	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background-color: red;"></div>	5/5
Still air	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background-color: red;"></div>	5/5
Ease of use	<div style="width: 60%; height: 10px; background-color: red;"></div>	3/5
Total	<div style="width: 93.3%; height: 10px; background-color: red;"></div>	13/15

6 Shift-it anti-fog

Price £2.49
 Contact 01782 569800
 or www.phoenixnw.co.uk



Tester's notes

This spray-on, rub-in solution worked well in still air and while riding along, stopping any fogging. Our visor became slightly greasy-looking in small patches when the product was tested hard by continual heavy breathing onto the visor, but that's after a good deal of provoking. This was a good result for a relatively inexpensive product.

Moving air	<div style="width: 80%; height: 10px; background-color: red;"></div>	4/5
Still air	<div style="width: 80%; height: 10px; background-color: red;"></div>	4/5
Ease of use	<div style="width: 60%; height: 10px; background-color: red;"></div>	3/5
Total	<div style="width: 73.3%; height: 10px; background-color: red;"></div>	11/15

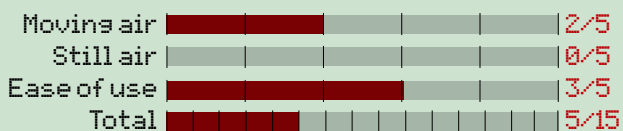
7 GP Products Inside Out

Price £4.99
Contact 0116 286 1612



Tester's notes

With similar results to other liquid-based products here, it produces a horrible greasy and smeary vision-blurring fog in still air that can't be seen though properly. At speed, the vision-blurring is reduced to small patches here and there, but it immediately returns as soon as the rider comes to a standstill.



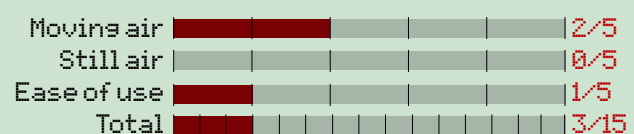
8= Hein Gericke Anti-Fog

Price £3.99
Contact 0800 165165
or www.hein-gericke.com



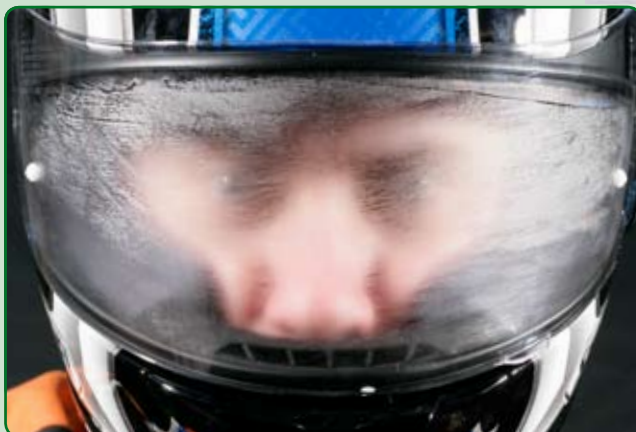
Tester's notes

Similar results to other liquid-based products in this test with a greasy/smeary vision-blurring fog in still air taking to the contours of where the product had been applied. When riding along, the blurring isn't as bad, and similar to the Yoshimoto and Motrax products here, it allows blurring in only a couple of small patches. But it blurs all over again when stopped.



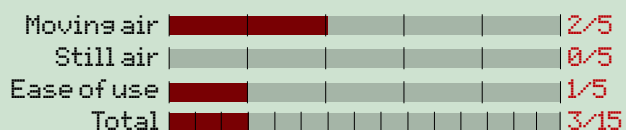
8= Motrax Fog-Free

Price £3.99
Contact 01933 418414
or www.motrax.co.uk



Tester's notes

A heavy greasy/smeary, vision-blurring fog resulted from our tester's first breath out in still air. It didn't clear. In moving air, the vision blurring isn't so bad, being restricted to a patch or two here and there that's most likely due to the application process, but it was much the same every time we applied it. It allows vision to be blurred again as soon as stationary.



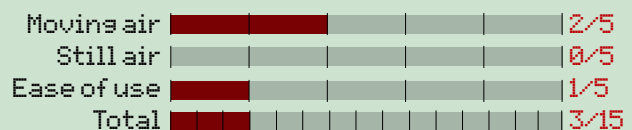
8= Yoshimoto Fog Off

Price £3.99
Contact 01933 418414
or www.motrax.co.uk



Tester's notes

Similar to many other spray-on products, this allowed our visor to mist as soon as we breathed out in still air and left a heavy greasy/smeary-looking fog. It didn't blur vision so much when riding along, leaving a patch here and there - but it immediately blurred badly again as soon as we came to a standstill.



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11 Bob Heath anti-fog

Price £3.50
Contact 01922 614747
or www.bobheathvisors.co.uk



Tester's notes

The visor misted in still air the moment our tester breathed out. It wasn't quite as bad as the misting on an untreated visor, but enough to warrant flipping up the visor to see. Mist forms a greasy and smeary pattern where the product has been applied, blurring vision. The riding test gave similar results as vision blurred, requiring the visor to be flipped open.

Moving air		0/5
Still air		0/5
Ease of use		1/5
Total		1/15

12 Muc-Off Anti-fog

Price £9.99
Contact 01202 307790
or www.muc-off.com



Tester's notes

In still air, the Muc-Off product fogged up as soon as it was breathed on, creating greasy, smeary, vision-blurring results. The fog takes a different form to that on an untreated visor, but cannot be seen through safely. The riding test produced similar results and our tester was not able to see clearly where he was going.

Moving air		0/5
Still air		0/5
Ease of use		1/5
Total		1/15

13 Washing-up liquid

Price £0.95
Contact Under the kitchen sink



Tester's notes

This suggests the idea of rubbing washing-up liquid on a visor to stop misting is a motorcycling myth. It proved absolutely useless, causing a dangerous vision-blurring fog all over in both still air and riding tests. It gives the visor a smeary appearance before it's even breathed on and would be a complete waste of time.

Moving air		0/5
Still air		0/5
Ease of use		0/5
Total		0/15

! THE VERDICT

The brilliant and inexpensive Fog Tech (it works out at 83p per wipe) wins Best Buy for providing great results in all conditions. It's simple to apply, the makers claim each application lasts five days and if the wipe stays moist you get a number of applications from each one.

The Pinlock system misses out on the Best Buy award because you need a visor with pins. But with some of the biggest helmet firms now supplying helmets with pins and inserts as standard, many of us get a free, effective visor misting cure with our new lid.

Fog City is good, but lacks Pinlock's versatility (once it's in



place, it's there forever), but road testers suggest the light-reactive Hyper-Optiks version is effective at dealing with changing light conditions.

The Foggy mask misses out on a RiDE triangle as it's awkward for spectacle wearers, while the Bob Heath Fog Demon is fiddly to fit.



An untreated visor mists like this...



...but test winner Fog Tech clears up