

I-NEK SUMMER (£4.99) AND I-NEK WINTER (£9.99) MULTIFUNCTIONAL HEADSCARVES

Available direct from www.motrax.co.uk and selected Motrax agents



As soon as motorcycles could propel themselves faster than walking pace, bikers have worn scarves to keep out the chill. The problem with traditional scarves though is they inevitably come undone and flap about. I used to wear them all the time until I was weaned off open-face helmets and never truly missed them since.

However these hand washable I-NEK scarves are seamless, tubular and stretchy so flapping about is a thing of the past. I tried both the Summer and Winter versions and was surprised just how much draught I'd been putting up with since my partial conversion to full-face lids. The Summer I-NEK is particularly versatile too, the stretchy tube being able to convert into all manner of hats and hair bands (they list 12 possibilities). I initially scoffed at these creative variations but, having been caught in a squall as I rested up in a lay-by, I quickly pulled the rear of the scarf over my head to create the balaclava and must admit their suggestions are not merely fanciful.

The Summer I-NEK is 100% polyester and really does a good job of keeping out a Spring chill. However the I-NEK Winter Half/Half was so warm that I found myself whipping it off as soon as I arrived anywhere. The Winter variety features a top half in the same material as the Summer I-NEK, which can cover your nose and chin, but features a lower half made from a fleecy material to protect your neck and go under a jacket. It too can be converted into balaclava if you're wondering.

Both I-NEKs definitely deliver what they claim, aren't silly money and are available in a range of funky or plain colour designs.

RICH

TAILS SAFE TAIL BAG RRP £139.99 WWW.MOTOHAUS.COM

Designed to fit securely and easily to most motorcycles, the Tailsafe is a soft sided tail bag with a big difference. It features a laminated stainless steel wire mesh surrounding the main compartment, sandwiched between the waterproof fabrics,



and utilises a long internal cable and padlock to secure both the main compartment like a duffel bag and also to effectively lock the bag to the bike itself. Even if the straps are cut or unhooked, the Tailsafe's cable will not allow the bag to be easily stolen and the internal 1.5mm high tensile exomesh cell means that the main part of the bag is slashproof too.

The Tailsafe can either be strapped down on a pillion seat, strapped to a sissy bar or strapped onto a rear carrier and comes with enough strap combinations to allow the rider to choose which is going to be the most successful solution for their machine. All the straps click on and off easily, and can be left on the machine while an adjustable shoulder strap/carrying handle clips onto D rings on the left and right of the bag for easy lugging.

As my Road King has no rear rack or sissy bar, I sat the Tailsafe on the pillion seat. The two front straps, with just one clip each, attach to the rear crash bars by poking the clip through the strap's loop at the other end, like a dog lead, while the rear strap, utilising two clips passed easily enough under the substantial rear light, numberplate assembly and subframe. The straps then are attached to the Tailsafe by clipping them to the D-rings at the front and rear of the bag and tugged down tight with the adjusters. Any excess strap then can be neatly folded away by tucking it into the soft padded tubes on the straps, which also act as protection points against scuffing.

Being a Bear of Limited Brain, it took me a while to work out what was going on regarding the internal cable and just how it might both secure the main compartment and secure the bag to the bike. To be fair the instructions were pretty specific, but it wasn't really until I'd worked out myself what had to happen and when, that the instructions made any sense to me. It can be like that some days, well, at least on my planet.

The cable essentially has a loop at one end and a neat plastic locking plate at the other, but the cable actually runs right through the centre of the device too so the cable can't be sliced open. The looped end of the cable is stored inside a pouch on the lid, once removed you hold the locking device and tug the looped end. The cable runs through eyelets in a waterproof fabric, that is released from velcro around the inside of the compartment, and as the loop is pulled the fabric closes much as a duffel bag does.

When fully closed, a brass bead pops through the larger hole in the locking device and clicks neatly into and is held by the smaller hole. You can then temporarily secure it all by passing the padlock through the larger hole, and the looped end of the cable can now be passed through a slit in the Tailsafe's lid and down, past a magnetic flap, and out of the bag. Following the right hand securing strap, the cable passes through the padded tube, around (in my case) the crash bar, back through the tube and into the bag where the loop now can be hooked onto the padlock and locked tight. Clever, huh? With a bit of practice, swearing and grunting I got the whole process of attaching the bag, closing it and locking it securely to my bike down to a couple of minutes, not at all bad for peace of mind.

Strapped down tight on the rear pillion, the Tailsafe doesn't budge an inch on the move and the main compartment is roomy enough for a spare pair of boots and plenty of clothes or my camera bag. Being fairly narrow the Tailsafe and its straps didn't foul the lids of my panniers, so I could use them without having to remove the bag. This was particularly handy as I could keep waterproofs and other things I might need quickly in the panniers and not have to bother disturbing the locked-down Tailsafe. I found the bag's side pockets useful too for biscuits, fags, tools and the like, and used an additional narrow map pocket in the Tailsafe's lid to store the securing straps, the shoulder strap and sissy bar pouch.

Finally the Tailsafe does appear to be waterproof, I got caught in a proper downpour and even the biscuits in the side pockets survived. However it's the main compartment that's the truly waterproof area and it looks pretty impenetrable when everything is padlocked tight and zipped up.

As an alternative to a sports bag and a couple of bungies the Tailsafe wins hands down, it's roomy, secure, well thought out, waterproof and pretty much tamperproof.

RICH