

ROOF BOXER V HELMET



Unsurprisingly the view is more restricted with the chin piece down, but not alarmingly so.

I have found a couple of issues with the Boxer V, however, and the biggest one is that contrary to the supplied instructions, the visor most definitely has to be

fully up before the chin piece can be lowered into place. If the visor is down, or even partly down, the chin piece jams on the visor and right in the rider's line of sight too. I found this out to my alarm at 70mph on the M6 riding into a squall. Of course, after some later clarification, I realise now I shouldn't have been riding with the helmet in open face mode at all, but then



with the chin piece latched down, the visor won't bed properly into the guard, leaving an annoying D-shaped hole aiming a blast of air directly at your nose.

The visor does bed securely into place if the chin piece is raised a little bit and then both can be clipped down into place and are watertight. Annoyingly though the visor cannot now be raised independently as it's locked into the chin piece, which must be unclipped – a two-handed job (ie. to be undertaken when the rider is stationary) – in order to release the visor again.

The Boxer V as a full-face is not a lid for the claustrophobic, but then again it does offer great protection from the elements and its snug fit and highest safety rating means it should be excellent at protecting the head should the worst happen. That close fit means it is not suitable for everyone, and just as the long or large nosed among us should make sure the visor isn't too close, the large chinned or hugely bearded should make sure the chin piece will actually cup underneath the chin, it's not exactly roomy.

The Boxer V is a warm helmet – even when used as an open-face – the removable and adjustable cotton lining doing a great job of insulating the head. If anything the lid was too warm for me, after a straight 100 miles or so I'd rip the Boxer v off at a service station and give my head such a scratch that onlookers probably thought I'd got lice the size of mice.

Roof's Boxer V is a great looking modular helmet, available in matte black, silver or white in the UK and benefits from being beautifully put together. It has issues and quirks but if you can live with them, the V is a stylish update on Roof's own classic Boxer design.

Rich

Retailing at around £245 the new Roof Boxer V is a distinctive, French made lid that really does look like it has been well designed and carefully manufactured. A modular helmet, it can be worn both as a full-face with chin piece down or, when stationary, with chin piece rolled back as an open-face: for the purposes of classification, however, the Boxer is a full-face helmet and is only certified as such for riding.

Roof first released the original Boxer over ten years ago and it was an instant hit, becoming something of an icon overnight, and listening to customer feedback Roof offers the Boxer V as a positive response to that feedback, claiming many improvements and modifications from their original modular lid.

Probably the most welcome modification for previous Boxer owners is the addition of adequate ventilation, the 'V' features two closable vents on the chin piece and another two on the crown of the lid, facing front and back, the rear acting as an exhaust. All are easy to open and close on the move, the front two do tend to slide shut on occasion but that's easily remedied, while I can't say I notice any difference whether the top vents are open or closed. The front chin vents, however, really do make a difference when opened, allowing a good flow of air into an otherwise quite enclosed helmet in full-face mode, for with the very snug chin piece snapped down into place it is impossible to remove the helmet: the red fasteners need to be pushed up at the same time to release the pop-fasteners underneath and so swing the chin piece back. The new quick release chinstrap is pretty nifty however and once adjusted for an individual fit is pretty much a doddle to get the hang of.

Expect funny looks when wearing the Boxer V as an open-face, you'll be sporting bright red devil horns. Unlike many other Modular or System helmets, the chin piece swings back over the back – incidentally adding unwelcome weight to the back of the helmet – which leaves the red release tabs sticking straight up into the air. Hell, Roof have always been unashamedly quirky and I'd like to think the 'horn' effect is deliberate.

You'll forget your horns however once you marvel at the view through the bubble visor. In open-face mode the view is virtually unrestricted, crystal clear and the very funky, slight smoke tint really does make an awful lot of difference in sunlight while being totally unnoticeable as the day turns to night: very impressive, and as claimed, it has yet to fog up, even on chill September mornings at 5 am. It gets close to the face too I must say, even my stubby little nose touches the visor.