

WATCH YOUR BACK

**Product
Review:**

The MSX1 Helmet

Everyone has heard the term “eyes in the back of your head”. Well, short of some unfortunate genetic research accident, the closest we are likely to come to having rear vision anytime soon is the Reevu RV MSX1 helmet, the world’s first rear view helmet of its type.

After having the opportunity to test out the helmet and its capabilities, here are some thoughts. Let’s call it the Reevu rear-view review...



The RV MSX1 helmet is the culmination of almost 10 years of research and development by English company Reevu who have introduced the clever concept of an ‘integrated rear view system’ which provides riders with an extended range of vision to their rear when on the bike.

Every rider knows that being aware of what is going on around them is essential to keeping safe on the road. The implications for riders by adding an extra layer of awareness and increasing their range of view cannot be understated. This is exactly what Reevu has brought to the table with the impressive RV MSX1.

The rear-view system design includes the mirror or ‘Vision System’ located above the riders’ eyes, which drops down slightly from the brow of the helmet. The rear of the helmet contains a clear rear-view opening, and the rest is actually just smoke and mirrors - without the smoke.

The mirrors, contained within the actual helmet mould, and constructed of reflective polycarbonate, are shatterproof for obvious reasons. They use an anti-fog coating to keep them clear in varying weather conditions, and the air vents have been constructed to assist in ventilating the reflective surfaces as well.

Because of the polycarbonate material used in the mirror, the image presented to the rider is not quite as sharp as it would be with glass, however, objects can still be discerned easily, and the safety benefits of using this material far outweighs the slight reduction in image quality.

The finish on the Italian made and hand assembled Satin Black test version kindly provided by the folks at Reevu Helmets Australia was of a high quality and the construction was sturdy. This helmet certainly looks the part too.



The team here particularly liked the sound of the ‘No Fog and Anti-Scratch Visor’, and the adjustable interior lining is a very nice touch also, as you can customise the fit for comfort.

Putting the helmet on, the first thing I noticed was the buckle mechanism on the chin strap. Rather than using a Clip-in or Double-D ring on the straps, a serrated ‘Retention System’ with a quick release latch has been introduced. It is easy to use, allows for quick adjustment of the chin strap, and would be quick to remove in the case of an accident, even for non-riders, so we think it’s a great design.

The design of the fully adjustable optic allows for the angle and height of the mirror component inside the helmet to be altered to suit the individual rider. It is essential to spend a few moments adjusting the mirror before use, and final adjustment is best done when sitting on the bike.

Initially it did take some time to get accustomed to using the mirror while riding, as is to be expected, but what a difference it made. The mirror is well placed and does not obstruct the riders’ frontal view at all, and after a short time I was using it in exactly the same way as I would a rear-view mirror in car,

and making use of peripheral vision as opposed to staring directly up at the mirror itself.

The rear view mirror makes objects appear much closer than they actually are, which I felt was a good thing from a safety perspective. Using the Reevu mirror in conjunction with the existing side mirrors on the bike gave an excellent range of view.

On this note it is important to stress, especially for newer riders, that although the Reevu helmet provides a far better range of view than a standard helmet, in no way does it remove the need to perform head checks, as the manufacturer clearly states in the product instructions.

At speed, the helmet was quieter than I had expected, and the aerodynamics have obviously been a key design factor, because even though the helmet is slightly higher on top than a regular helmet in order to make room for the mirror system, this was completely unnoticeable from a riders perspective.

All in all, Reevu have done a great job with the MSX1, and made a fantastic step in the right direction by offering an innovative product that will surely help to improve the safety of riders.

Will it be the right helmet choice for you? Well, as with any groundbreaking new product to hit the local market, riders will love it, or they won’t, but don’t be surprised when you start seeing these on the road

once certification is completed. You only have to try one for yourself and you will see why the Reevu helmet is one of the most exciting developments in rider safety in quite some time.

The tri-composite carbon RV MSX1 is offered in a number of attractive finishes including Grey Titanium, Silver Gunmetal, Black Matt, Black Metal, Satin Black, and White. The helmet is just about to hit Australian shores in all standard sizes, which Reevu support with a range of accessories and spare parts such as a variety of anti-scratch screens, and replacement rear visors.



The Reevu RV MSX1

Pros: Provides excellent direct rear view; Attractive design & well constructed.

Cons: Rear view may be impeded when riding with a pillion; The wait to be able to use it on-road!

While the helmets have satisfied full European standards, the Reevu RV

MSX1 is still currently going through AS/NZS1698 testing and as of the date of this article, they have not yet been certified for road use in Australia, although this is expected soon.

They are however, able to be used in competition and off-road, and as expected they have been received well on the track overseas.

Once AS/NZ 1698 approval has been granted, the RV MSX1 will go to market at a RRP of around \$795.

As a member benefit, Reevu helmets will be able to be purchased for only \$745, which also includes a free 12 months MA membership for both new and existing members.

To be the first to get your head into the MSX1, or to place a pre-order, contact Reevu www.reevu.com.au