

**TEST
WINNER!**
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TROY LEE DESIGNS A1

£149.99

SPECIFICATION Non-metallic version £139.99 • Sizes: XS/S, M/L, XL/XXL
• Weight: 377g • Contact: fisheroutdoor.co.uk

The A1 is the most eagerly anticipated helmet in recent years, what with TLD producing arguably the best and certainly the most desirable full-face lids for the downhill set. Putting the A1 onto your bonce you can immediately feel that downhill pedigree, as the helmet envelops your head more snugly than any other. It feels so reassuring, firm like a well-fitting DH lid, but not uncomfortable. The fit is down to the padding, which is superior to all others here — denser, more comfortable, and there is actually more of it. It also manages to feel dry to the touch even when you've been sweating plenty.

The A1's shape is very



comfortable too, deep and giving very good coverage — a little more than the POC, and extended all around on the sides, front and rear. It looks a bit odd from the front, a bit football-like, and the penalty (sorry couldn't help it) for all that coverage is it's heavy and hotter than

some, but large vents down the sides help keep air moving. The retention device and chinstrap are comfortable and easy to use, and the visor is great as you can tilt it up and down and secure it like a DH lid.



Conclusion

The worst helmet in this test was the Endura Snype, simply because it was so uncomfortable. That's a real shame because it's killer value and super lightweight. Hopefully in time Endura will iron out the creases and it'll move up the pecking order.

A special mention should go to the Mavic Notch and POC Trabec Race MIPS. The Notch is great value, comfortable and handsome, but it's starting to get a bit shabby because the EPS is exposed underneath. The Trabec is exceptionally comfortable and looks amazing, but it's seriously pricey.

Two helmets here score full marks, but they're quite different in approach to the all-mountain helmet ideal. The Scott is closer to an XC lid than most, but we think it's still 'all-mountain' thanks to the additional protection offered by its MIPS technology. It's also lightweight, comfortable and exceptional value, especially when compared to the similarly MIPS-equipped POC.

Then there's the Troy Lee A1. It's double the money but has way more protection, at the back and sides of the head. The fit is nothing short of superb, too — you really feel cradled and secure thanks to the brilliant padding. This is the helmet to get if you're into enduro racing or want to stand out from the crowd.

