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REVIEW

By Warren Rossiter &amp; Cycling Plus

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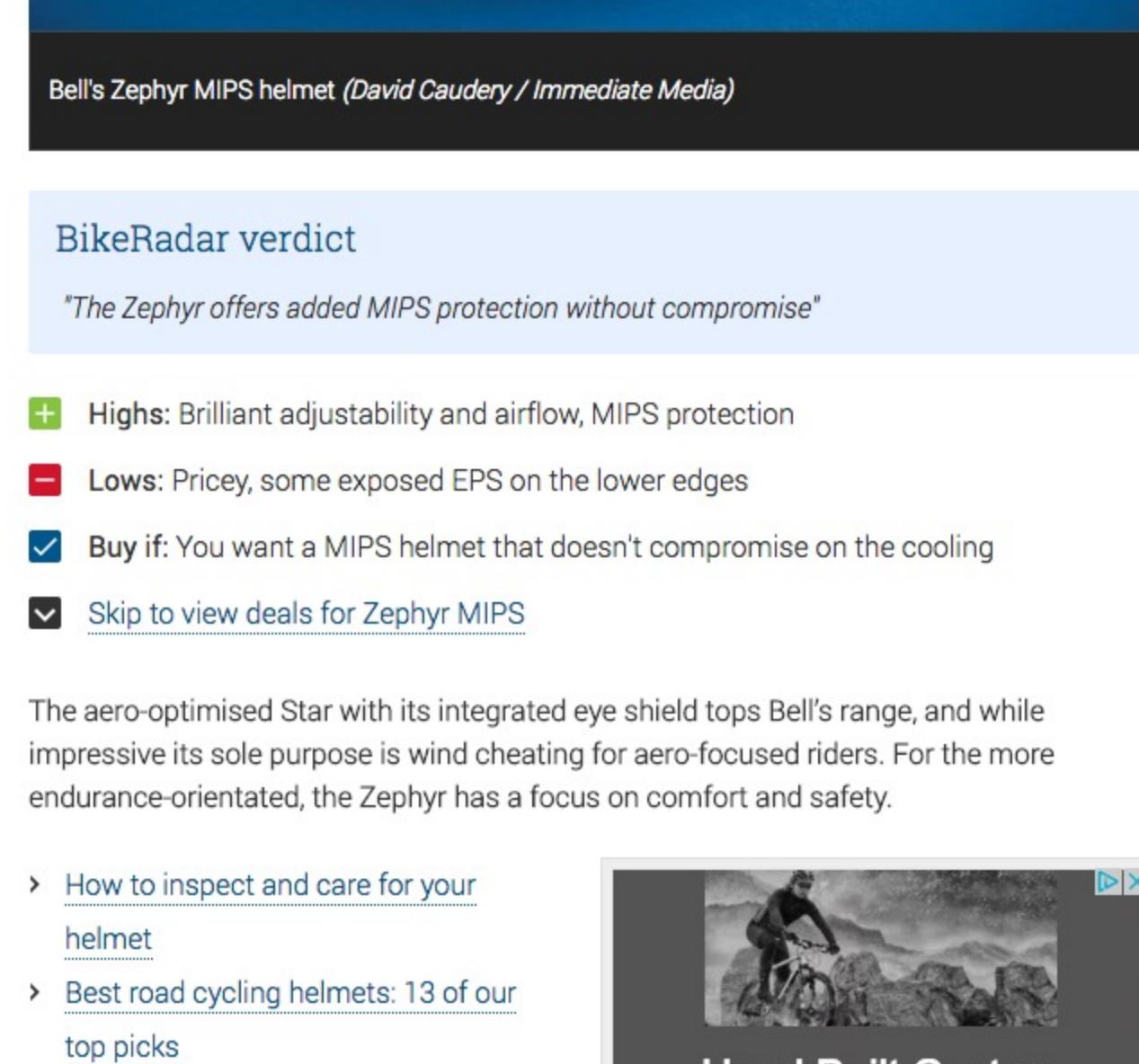
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## Bell Zephyr MIPS helmet review £200.00

All-new top-flight lid with added safety

BikeRadar score ★★★★☆ 4.5/5



Bell's Zephyr MIPS helmet (David Caudery / Immediate Media)

### BikeRadar verdict

'The Zephyr offers added MIPS protection without compromise'

+ Highs: Brilliant adjustability and airflow, MIPS protection

- Lows: Pricey, some exposed EPS on the lower edges

Buy if: You want a MIPS helmet that doesn't compromise on the cooling

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The aero-optimised Star with its integrated eye shield tops Bell's range, and while impressive its sole purpose is wind cheating for aero-focused riders. For the more endurance-orientated, the Zephyr has a focus on comfort and safety.

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The helmet features 18 large vents, which perforate a wind tunnel-optimised shape, and a hard skeleton between base and top layers of EPS foam for strength.

The fit is excellent thanks to its slightly rounded shape and new float-fit retention system that offers 22mm of vertical adjustment. This makes fitting the cradle to your occipital lobe (visual processing centre of the brain, located at the rear of the skull) easy and comfortable. Neoprene pads bonded to the cradle further enhance the great fit.

MIPS (Multi-directional Impact Protection System) is a patented design that uses slip plane technology designed to reduce rotational forces that can come from angled impacts, so the helmet slides relative to the movement of the head.

Helmet companies don't legally claim that MIPS is safer than a standard helmet but the company behind it — MIPS intellectual designs are licensed to helmet manufacturers — has certainly done its research, and anything that should make things safer is good with us.

The downside to MIPS is that it's usually an additional part inserted underneath the retention system, which can compromise cooling, but this is where Bell has been clever.

By working in partnership with MIPS, Bell has integrated its brilliantly adjustable cradle system with a skeletal design MIPS roll cage so the Zephyr doesn't have any such cooling compromises. It feels as light and airy as a 315g (large) helmet should.

The minimal but well placed and washable E-Static pads add to the flush and free feel of the Zephyr, making this one of the finest road lids I've ever tried. The lightweight straps sit flat, the finish is clean and very neatly done and the mix of flat matt colours and gloss highlighted understated logos all add to the quality.

The Zephyr is also offered in a fully reflective 'Ghost' colour option.

There are a few areas of exposed core on the lower edges, so you'll need to be careful not to drop it, but that niggle aside this is one of the best performing lids around.

This article was originally published in [Cycling Plus](#) magazine, available on [Apple Newsstand](#) and [Zinio](#).

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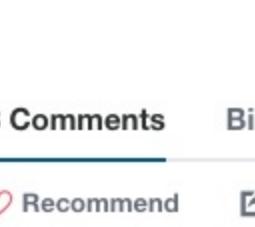
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Approaching two decades of testing bikes, Warren can be found on a daily basis riding and exploring the road and off roads of Wiltshire's Salisbury Plain in the UK. That's when he's not travelling the world to test the latest kit, components and bikes.

#### Warren Rossiter

Senior Technical Editor

Twitter

Age: 44

Weight: 92kg / 203lb

Chest: 112cm / 44in

Height: 188cm / 6'2"

Waist: 86cm / 34in

Discipline: Road

Preferred Terrain: Big, fast descents and rough surfaces like cobbles or strada bianca

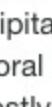
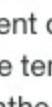
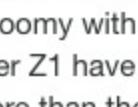
Current Bikes: Decade Triptec ATR, Dedacciai Temarano, Cannondale Synapse, BMC Granfondo Disc D12, Genesis Day One CX, Parlee Z Zero Custom, Storck Scenario Comp Custom, DMR Trailstar, Bianchi Pista, Cube SLV 29er e-bike

Dream Bike: Bianchi Oltre Disc, Bianchi Specialissima, Cannondale Slates, Buffalo Bike

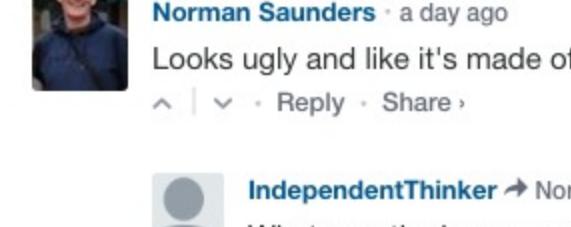
Beer of Choice: Brew Dog Punk IPA

Location: Wiltshire, UK

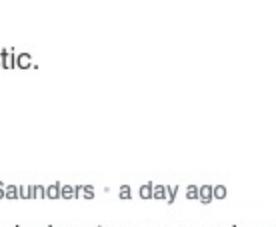
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Eugene Chan · a day ago

I think the closest comparison besides the Stratus is the Giro Synthe, perhaps not by coincidence since Giro and Bell operated out of the same building. I found both helmets very comfortable around the top of my head, maybe because of the suspended fit preventing the top of my head from touching hard EPS. General shape and size is also the same. Not mushroomy with decent occipital protection in the back. Some competitors like the Lazer Z1 have more temporal protection. As far as aesthetic details, I like the Zephyr more than the Synthe mostly. Perhaps ironically, the Synthe reminds me of the old Bell V-1 Pro with its retro-modern styling. The Zephyr's main visual flaw is the jagged outline around the ears.

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Norman Saunders · a day ago

Looks ugly and like it's made of plastic.

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IndependentThinker · a day ago

What exactly do you suppose helmets are made of? Finely grained teak?

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