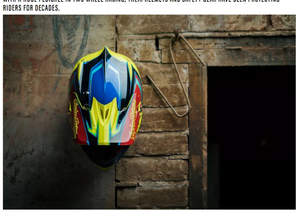
TROY LEE DESIGNS D3 CARBON MIPS

APPAREL

By Sean White
@mtwhit

3rd April 2017

VERY FEW OF YOU WILL NEED AN INTRODUCTION TO *TROY LEE'S RANGE* OF CLOTHING AND FULL FACE HELMETS. WITH A HUGE PEDIGREE IN TWO WHEEL RACING, THEIR HELMETS AND SAFETY GEAR HAVE BEEN PROTECTING RIDERS FOR DECADES.



TLD's range of full face helmets has always been at the top of most DH riders' wish lists with only the price being an issue. With the introduction of the range topping D3 full face lid in 2009 (and featuring in the 2010 Dirt 100), the appeal of this brand only grew stronger. Sitting above the D2 (which remains in the range), the new design brought further advances in construction, materials, ventilation and fit. Of course the stunning graphic treatment remains and is a huge part of the D3's appeal but for us it's not the main attraction.

The reason we love Troy Lee lids though isn't just about their style, it's also about their fit. We always say different heads suit different brands, but there's not one of us at Dirt that has ever found a helmet that fits better than a Troy Lee.

'Next time you watch the World Cup Downhill, take a moment to see just how many of the fast boys and girls trust a D3 to look after them if things go nasty'

With a major revamp in 2016, Troy Lee Designs moved the already impressive D3 design forward again. They really have left very little room for improvement and this helmet is crammed full of really well thought through details and our pick here is the top of the range Carbon D3 with added MIPS protection.

A hand laid pre-peg carbon/composite/MCT construction keeps weight low but strength high with a top layer UD (unidirectional) carbon weaves providing added strength and a touch of style. TLD have spent plenty of time in the wind tunnel testing the aerodynamics, honing both the shape and twenty venting ducts to perfection. This all adds to the costs and you start to build up a picture of just what goes into this top end helmet and goes someway to justifying the high price tag.

Comfort and fit is incredibly important on any helmet and as we've mentioned the Troy Lee lids and in particular the D3 has a fit that seems hard to beat. With three different EPS shell sizes and six different sized cheek/headliner kits, this helmet covers a very broad range of head sizes and shapes and can be easily tuned for an excellent fit. The revised 3D cheek pad extends more toward the front of the helmet/chinbar area, for a more secure fit with a smooth finish in all areas increasing comfort further. The no detail is overlooked and on this version even the visor screws and D-ring strap clasp are made of titanium.

This latest version of the D3 really is impressive and stands at the top of list, along with the Fox Rampage, as our choice for a premium full face helmet. A refinement of the impressive original model this TLD helmet really leaves no detail untouched and as such a truly impressive and desirable piece of kit.