

TCX Competizione RS

Oxtar reboots

IT IS BY DESIGN THAT THE SPORT-oriented TCX Competizione RS strongly resembles the flagship model of the now-discontinued Oxtar boot brand. Novation Motorbike SpA, a leader in the Italian footwear business, recently acquired Oxtar, and one of its first steps was to re-brand the entire product line—both on- and off-road—as TCX.

The new name is derived from the unique Torsion Control System (TCS), a key safety feature borrowed from its predecessor. The Competizione RS combines the comfort and durability of natural leather with the added impact protection and rigidity of the stitched-in-place external plastic TCS structure.

Beauty of the four-piece TCS design is that it offers free longitudinal and lateral movement of the ankle while preventing torsional twisting beyond natural limits. The RS also features a Metatarsal Control System (MCS) built into the toe slider that is designed to prevent excessive up-and-down bending of the front half of the foot without compro-

missing comfort or feel.

To improve comfort on hot days, a breathable mesh liner lets cooling air pass through the perforated outer shell and shin plate,



DETAILS

Helmet House
26855 Malibu Hills Rd.
Calabasas Hills, CA 91301
800/421-7247
www.helmethouse.com
Price...\$400

▲ Ups

- ▲ Sole venting means no more toasty toes!
- ▲ Replaceable toe, heel and cuff sliders
- ▲ Techy exoskeleton design

▼ Downs

- ▼ No vent blocks for cold weather
- ▼ White shows scuffs; black also available
- ▼ Skeleton wants his boots back

while the vented toe slider feeds air through channels molded into the rubber sole and through small perforations in the footbed. A full-length zipper and draw-string retention system allow ease of entry while maintaining a snug, secure fit. Bottom line, then, good sport-bike boots with an excellent sense of comfort and control on the motorcycle. ☑

Adaptiv TPX Radar and Laser System

Freed to speed?

DOWNSIDE TO RADAR DETECTORS ADVERTISED as compatible with motorcycles is that most were developed for cars. Not so the Adaptiv Technologies TPX Radar and Laser Detection System. In fact, "Designed by motorcyclists for motorcyclists" is the phrase TPX inventor Wayne Chen uses when describing his company's product.

This isn't marketing hyperbole. Chen was fed up with his attempts to adapt traditional detectors to bikes. He was frustrated by missed audio and visual alerts, illegible readouts and switchgear that was difficult to operate while wearing gloves.

Addressing these and other issues was tougher than Chen and Adaptiv co-founder Adam Gold imagined, but the TPX



delivers on its promise. Mating the shock-, vibration- and water-resistant console to a Technomount stem mount on our long-term Kawasaki ZX-14 required an optional Universal Mount Adaptor (\$19), but hard-wiring the fused harness to the bike's battery was a no-brainer.

On the road, the angled backlit LCD is easy to read day or night. Same goes for the five-button keypad. Choosing the appropriate mode—City, Highway or City NoX—is a single-button affair, and the band-specific warning alarms can be heard even when wearing a full-face helmet and earplugs. An optional LED Visual Alert (\$45) provides eye-catching backup to the external speaker.

Bottom line: The TPX saved us from costly tickets—both in and out of town—more times than we

care to remember. Think of it as the next best thing to a get-out-of-jail-free card. ☑

DETAILS

Adaptiv Technologies, LLC
459 Columbus Ave. #709
New York, NY 10024
866/232-7848
www.radarforbikes.com
Price...\$309

▲ Ups

- ▲ 360-degree protection against all radar bands, including X, K and Superwide Ka
- ▲ Easy-to-use, intuitive design
- ▲ Certified by independent Speed Measurement Labs

▼ Downs

- ▼ Seen as bulky by iPhone generation
- ▼ Illegal in Virginia and Washington D.C.
- ▼ Instant-on laser still difficult to defeat