

Just a few words

Mobile phones, GPS and MP3-players are by now part of our every day life. Many of us would like to use them on the motorbike with a helmet-to-helmet communication system. In a two-part test we show you the possibilities for a good sound in the helmet.

Listening to music is also possible with MP3-player only. Making phone calls with headset is also possible but when you want to do both then more technology is necessary. When you get the music from the mobile phone, it will turn down the sound if a phone call comes in. As many navigation systems can be paired with a mobile phone and have a built-in MP3-player, you get very

complex systems with little effort. But as soon as you want to talk to the pillion and you add a PMR two-way radio to the mobile phone, navigation system and music, you will need a sophisticated interconnection. In such cases there are specialized communication systems necessary that will provide priority management according to the connected device. The music will be



To operate various equipment at the same time, the control unit not only has to handle different input signals but also turn them on and off in a specified order

muted by any other signal; the announcement of the navigation will still be heard while on the phone but if there is e.g. a warning via two-way radio from someone driving ahead, the phone call will be muted as well. As these devices work with different signal strength, the system has to adjust the volume of each of them. At the same time it will take care of a constant good communication and adjust the volume of the loudspeakers and the sensitivity

of the microphone automatically according to the surrounding noises. Furthermore, it is pleasing to the ear if the cross-fade between devices is done fast but still sensitively. The tested wired systems are on a technologically advanced level and offer various solutions for personal needs. In the next edition we will have a look at the pros and cons of Bluetooth systems.

(Sven Degenhardt)

How we tested

The four systems we tested were each connected to a Garmin Zumo, a Nokia 6680 and a MP3-player from Samsung. The test drive was done at various speeds with several motorbikes. The headsets were installed in various helmets from Schubert, Shoei and Nolan. When connecting the system to the on-board power it is necessary to connect the power supply cable to the ignition so that the system will not accidentally discharge the battery. The wiring of each component and

especially the individual adjustments of the systems are not always easy. When necessary, the installation could always be done by experts. Although extensive noise filters are being used to cut off wind noise, a communication is almost impossible with most helmets when driving faster than 150 km/h – especially on motorbikes with noisy fairings. The voice-controlled microphones are then permanently activated and are blocking everything.

AKE

Name: PowerCom Innova

Manufacturer: AKE

Measurements:
163x 69 x 19 mm

Connections:
Mobile phone: 3,5-mm jack plug; Audio: 3,5-mm jack plug; Two-way radio: 3,5 und 2,5-mm jack plug; Helmet set: 5-pole DIN-plug; 12-V power supply

Technical data:
Full-Duplex-helmet to helmet communication system, automatic intercom disconnection when driving solo; automatic volume adjustment, noise filter for better sound quality at high speeds, priority management in ascending order from music to navigation, two-way radio to mobile phone; individual basic setting for volume and sensitivity of mobile phone, two-way radio and Intercom, iVOX voice control possible

Power supply:
12-V on-board power supply



Scope of delivery:

Electronic control unit with mounting parts.

Optionally available:

Stereo headsets for full face helmets and Jet / flip-up helmets; remote control; connecting cable for mobile phone, navigation, two-way radio and audio systems; third and fourth helmet connection optionally possible; with Bluetooth module extendable for a wireless connection of

helmets, mobile phone, etc.

Price: 564 € incl. 19% VAT

Cost-effectiveness: good
Delivery: www.motorbike-communication.com or call 00 49 7021 55 0 44

Conclusion:

With comprehensive features and excellent workmanship the AKE system is very appealing. The adjustment of the volume as well as the quality of voice and music

transmission, priority management and the cross-fading feature are convincing.

As with almost all systems, the communication will be affected by helmet background noises in the helmet when driving faster than 150 km/h.

