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UCLEAR MOTION INFINITY

Riding with Motion

As more cost-effective alternative to motorcycle communications **James Pescatore** reviews UCLEAR's Motion Infinity

Riding in the winter is never fun, slightly more so when it's for work, and you're getting paid mileage, but you do need a reliable and robust comms kit to guide you on unfamiliar roads or around

diversions. And then your comms kit fails or breaks and you panic! Introducing the UCLEAR Motion Infinity.

Boasting some impressive features, and a rugged control unit, I was pretty excited to be asked to put it through its paces on the mean streets of the south coast in all weathers. And boy, oh boy, have we had some weather!

The first task, remove it from the box and install it in my Shark Skwal.

Unboxing it, I found a small control unit, a USB C cable, various mounts and a handy set up guide. Wait! There's an app for this thing too? Whoa!

I duly installed the app, powered the comms unit on and registered it. Not only does the app have a built-in equalizer, but it also has voice controls, gesture control and a crash detection feature that calls your nearest and dearest to alert them. Pairing with the app and your phone is nice and straightforward and worked first time without problems.

Next, connecting the speakers and mics up — all done via one USB C connector into the unit. Again, keeping it simple! After some fettling with cheek pads and getting the speakers and mics set up, it was all done in less than ten minutes. It was then attached to the helmet by a 3M sticky pad attached to the mounting bracket and voila! All setup and fitted!

Functionality and gesture control

Time to test the audio playback quality. Helmet on and Spotify loaded, I selected a playlist and was pleasantly surprised with both the depth of the music and sound quality. Changing tracks, altering volume, starting/stopping the music was easy with gesture control. Okay, I looked a bit of a plum sat in the lounge with my helmet on gesturing to test this, but only the cat was around to judge me, so it's all good! I tried the button control with gloves on; all worked gloriously well!

Had to have a play with the equalizer in the app too — the ability to adjust the sound to your personal preferences was unique and an experience I enjoyed immensely! I love a variety of music when I'm riding, so the ability to tune the listening experience to my musical taste was a breath of fresh air.

I left home very early the next morning with some tunes playing. Halfway through the 17-mile commute to work along the coast in the fog and cold temperatures, I decided to test voice control out — and it all worked gloriously! Yes, I spent time previously upgrading the firmware and setting up the voice recognition, but out on the road, skipping tracks and adjusting the volume was nice and simple!

Then I started to use the gesture control while waiting at a set of red lights. I was waving my hand around like a lunatic, much to the chap's amusement in the van next to me. Again, it worked perfectly; I had a HUGE smile on my face.

Fast forward through a few weeks of testing, and the chance to test the unit with a work colleague working in the same area that day. He also has comms installed. Time for a little ride out!

Before we set off, the dreaded set up (as found with other communication kits) had to happen. Even though my colleague was using a different brand, both connected with zero issues. Admittedly, I had to check the instructions, but they're on the app, so I styled it out and made it look like I knew what I was



doing while reading how to pair the kits.

The range on this unit states three-quarters of a mile in ideal operating conditions. And these were most definitely NOT ideal conditions! Picture the worst kind of driving rain coupled with gale force winds along coastal roads, and you'll get the idea. The spray from the sea was also on the road; it was that bad.

Off went my colleague with me following. He was chattering away to me about the weather, Christmas, Covid and all the other usual chit chat as we rode along.

I suggested we increase the distance between us to test, and he shot off about 600 metres up the road in traffic. Still crystal clear! Admittedly, the rain was lashing down, and the wind made it fun keeping the bike upright, but the comms kit was working both ways perfectly.

My colleague then went a little further away from me, and although the audio started to break up, I was impressed that he managed to get around 750 metres from me with zero negative effect on the comms unit until that point.



We decided to test the call audio on the unit while one of us was riding. So off I went, and my colleague called me.

I used the button on the unit to answer the call, and call audio was crystal clear the whole way through thanks to their patented DYNAMesh audio. My colleague also said that he could (unfortunately for him) hear me fine and that the mics were picking up my voice well even though it was blowing a hoolie out and I was accelerating away quite hard.

No delay in audio, no interference at any tested speed in torrential rain and gale-force winds. Very impressive, given the



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Pros: Small, lightweight, easy to install, crystal-clear audio playback with equaliser in the app to customise your sound; great mic pickup courtesy of the patented DynaMesh system; gesture control; voice control; easy-to-use app; and uSafe Crash detection

Cons: Positioning is tricky to get right, so your shoulder doesn't get in the way of the gesture sensor, but you

conditions we were riding in.

I've used this on clear days, dry days, foggy days, horrendously wet and bitterly cold days and all types of weather in between and the unit has never let me down once. It's a significant improvement over previous kits I have used.

I also noticed that with uMove, when you put your helmet down, the unit will power down but will power up when you put the helmet back on saving battery power. It will also fit a variety of helmet types including full-face, modular, off-road, 3/4 as well as 1/2 helmets (with long earbuds).

After-sales support is available through local distributors, and the warranty is two years for the control unit and one year for the accessories. Having not experienced any issues, I can't say whether the after-sales service is good or not, but based on the build quality, and how the unit performs, I suspect the support would be fast and efficient.

All in all, I cannot recommend this unit enough. It's tiny, robust, discrete, easy to install and able to be used safely whilst riding, and the audio quality is, quite frankly, the best I have ever had in a helmet for music, navigation and calls.



If you want good quality, safe to use audio when riding, then this unit is great. If you want to delve into the app and explore all of the extra features, then you can too.

With firmware updates available via cable or wireless (wireless takes a little while longer than cabled), I can't see why this wouldn't be a good choice for all riders in all situations whether on-, off-road, or a mixture of the two.

In the time I've been testing this device, I've done my best to put it through its paces and take it out of its comfort zone. It never struggled or let me down during this time, and I look forward to using it for a long time to come.

can turn it off in the app, or you can reposition it until you are satisfied; Price – the unit is expensive, but comparing the price to other similarly well-known units, it's in line with what you would expect to pay with lots of additional, and useful, features; cable from the unit to the speakers and mics can be quite troublesome depending on where you mount it. I found tucking it under the rim of the helmet resolved this with the aid of a small cable tie to get it to wedge in and hold. In an ideal world, a clip that slides between the shell and helmet linings to contain it would be welcomed in future revisions.

SPECIFICATIONS

- Bluetooth: V5.0 (BR/EDR/BLE), Class 1
- Profiles: HSP, HFP, A2DP, AVRCP, GATT
- Intercom Range: Up to 1.2 Km (0.75 mile) per person in optimum conditions
- Talk Time: Up to 18 hours
- Standby Time: 400 hours
- Operating Temp: -40°C (-40°F) to 60°C (140°F)
- Charging Temp: 0°C (32°F) to 45°C (113°F)
- Charging Time: 2.5-3 Hours
- Controller Size: 72x44x26mm (2.8x1.7x1 inch)
- CLEARLink Mobile App: Android 4.2 or later; Apple iOS 8 or later
- Warranty: 2 years for control unit; 1 year for accessories

For more info and to find a distributor, visit: www.UCLEAR.eu (Europe, Mid-East, Africa)