

KICKSTART

Big box, little box

Vespa's GTS has many admirable qualities, but the ability to store a helmet under its seat is not one of them. Fortunately, Monaco-based company Bigbox has taken on that challenge and won.

When I first heard about the Big Box I was sceptical; there's not a lot of room to manoeuvre in the GTS's engine bay and if it were possible to get a helmet in the underseat storage area then surely Piaggio would have done so? It appears not. By a very careful and clever use of space, effectively wrapping around the engine, Bigbox has managed to reprofile the underseat bin so that a pair of 'jet' helmets or one open face/modular helmet will sneak into the bin.

There's not a lot of wiggle room and it's worth checking the company's website, where dimensions and a constantly updated list of compatible helmets is maintained to make sure a specific helmet will slide inside. I've tried AGV's Sportmodular in large, which isn't a low profile helmet, and it fits comfortably inside.

It may be a relatively small start-up, but Bigbox hasn't skimped on quality control. I'd say the test sample I've been sent is 95% equivalent to the OEM part. The 5% gets deducted because it's a snug fit over the underseat lip and needs a little coaxing. Nothing that'll cause any paint concerns though and it's suitable for all GTS, Sei Giorni and Sport models, 125 and 300, produced from MY2019 onwards; including the 2023 upgrade.

For a long time I've droned on about the GTS's unusable underseat storage but Bigbox has created a solution. The downside is cost, currently €360 plus shipping and import fees to the UK. That's not cheap, but the only alternative for



OEM left, Big Box right.

on-scooter helmet storage is fitting a top box. That'll set you back around €450-500, making the Big Box a stylish and well-priced alternative. I look forward to seeing how it stands up to the coming season and whether its 22-litre capacity gives any other practical storage benefits.

More information, including some useful videos about the Big Box in use and how it's manufactured in France, can be found by visiting the company's website or following the QR code (right).

Stan
www.bigboxscooter.com



LEGAL Q&A

This information is provided by Stephen Hattersley, of WildWood Legal, a firm of solicitors specialising in claims for injured scooterists. Stephen, a qualified solicitor for 25 years, has been riding scooters for more than 30 years and has acted for injured riders across the UK. He knows the tricks and pitfalls that insurers use and pulls no punches in his dealings with them. He rides to work every day and understands the challenges you face out there.



WildWood Legal

Q. I was knocked off my scooter and couldn't work for around six months. I am a self-employed plasterer. A lot of the work I do is

cash in hand – my solicitor says I can't claim for these lost earnings but that doesn't seem fair to me. Is there any way around it?

A. In a word, NO! Your solicitor is right. If you give evidence in court that you were working cash in hand and not declaring this for tax purposes, I can tell you now that a) the judge

isn't going to be impressed by this at all and b) it won't be the last you hear of it. It will be referred to HMRC and you will have them on your back for a long time.