

MXA PRODUCT TEST: JETT J1 BOOT:

The Boot That Just Might Change The Way We Think Of Motocross Boots In The Future



WHAT IS IT? The most creative new boot in two decades. The Jett J1 channels the original Scott plastic boot and the legendary Hi-Point Champion to produce a boot that is one pound lighter than some other high-end motocross boots. It is a old-school leather boot (in dimensions, sleekness, size and design) reconfigured as a modern plastic boot. It is protective and simple.

WHAT STANDS OUT? Here's a list of things that stand out with the Jett J1 boot.

(1) Design/construction. The basic idea was to produce a modern boot that weighed less than any other boot, had very few parts, and mimicked the sleek profile of an old-school leather boot (only with plastic). One look at the design tells you how classic the Jett J1's aesthetics are. Very sweet looking.

(2) Weight. At just under four pounds for a size ten, these boots can be as much as 15 ounces lighter than many comparable boots.

(3) Sole. Jett's molded sole has a replaceable insert that contains the shank. The insert is slightly raised so that it wears before the rest of the boot. Jett believes that shanks degrade over time, and their shank is automatically replaced with the insert.



(4) Upper shell. The plastic upper portion is a separate piece that is hinged (and can be removed). There are three sizes of upper shells to work with bird legs, muscular calves and knee braces. If you wear knee braces you might want to consider the bigger size upper, but most *MXA* test riders were able to wear the standard J1 upper (even with braces).

(5) Protection. The rigidity of the injection-molded plastic on the upper and lower portion means that impacts are dispersed over the entire area. The hinge and ankle area do a good job of allowing the foot to bend forward and back while restricting rolling and lateral movements.

(6) Feel. The toe box is the smallest on the market. It can fit under any shifter and makes your footpegs feel bigger and incredibly strong. The downside is that just like on the original Heckle and Scott plastic boots, you have to get a feel for the shifter and brake pedals, because there is no input from the boot. For most *MXA* test riders the boots took about an hour to get used to when it came to feeling the rear brake as opposed to feeling the rear brake pedal.

(7) Fit. The Jett J1 has a slim, Italian feel, and riders with extra-wide feet may have to go up a size.

(8) Comfort. The interior is adequately padded, but some comfort is lost through the rigid molded sole. These boots are made for speed more than comfort. They aren't pleasant to walk in, and at cruising speed test riders noticed more vibration through the pegs than in other boots. We replaced the insoles with aftermarket insoles, which helped a lot.

(9) Buckles. The simplest designs are the best. The Jett buckles are easy to use, easy to adjust and replaceable.



(10) Colors. The Jett J1 is available in black or white. We experimented and put the white upper on a black boot and vice versa.

(11) Evolution. During *MXA*'s test period, Jett made constant updates to the J1 boot. We saw three generations of the boot and Jett promised us a fourth generations in the coming months. They are committed to improving their boot every chance they get (and on a plastic boot, that is a very expensive process). They are taking input from this test—about sealing, feel and padding—and making even more updates to the injection molds. Although Jett may appear to be a new company, but the boot is, in fact, built by well respected Remo Berlese. For those who don't know, Remo was responsible for the success of AXO in the 1980s. He is a perfectionist.

WHAT'S THE SQUAWK? Jett will target these areas on the next evolution of the Jett: **(1)** The rigid base is supportive and protective, but sacrifices feel. **(2)** Although the boot seals at the top, we got dirt between the plastic and the inner liner. A better gaiter is needed around the top rim. **(3)** More padding on the inside will make the boot more comfortable.



The Jett J1 boot has broken the mold of how complex a boot needs to be. The J1 offers the protection of a plastic boot, weight of a leather boot, and high-tech design of the future. Jett has set a new standard in boot construction.

MOTOCROSS
ACTION MAGAZINE