



The Striker is undoubtedly a better helmet than the Flux - it feels more polished and complete and the fit more refined and secure. That said the Flux is cheaper and still a mighty fine helmet that's set to continue as the Striker's support act. Do you need to spend the extra £20 on the Striker? Possibly not, but given the chance, we would. *Justin*



Fox Striker helmet £90

We like Fox's Flux but will the Striker score as well?

We've been wearing the venerable Fox Flux trail helmet for years and across the entire

What Mountain Bike team it rates as a helmet that we are happy to wear while tooling about up mountains or a cross-country (XC) race where lighter weight and more extreme venting is always preferable.

We wondered if Fox would design its new helmet with a nod towards the performance XC, but it's resolutely remained in the hardcore XC and trail bike zone with the Striker - if you're looking for a new XC race lid then try the Specialized Prevail.

That said the new Fox Striker is slimmer, lower profile and

generally more grown up than the Flux with its plastic fins and spoilers, which some liked and others didn't.

Construction-wise the new helmet doesn't break any new ground with an EPS liner in-mould fused to a plastic microshell, but that's fine because the Flux is known for its outstanding durability. The retention system is upgraded with a pinch to grip set-up like Giro's Roc Loc, and it works as advertised.

One of the obvious features of the Striker is the increase in size to the vents; they are big and do a great job of sucking air in to cool down hot brows. We'll have to see what we think in frigid November though.

We think Fox missed a trick by not making the Striker's visor tilt adjustable, though it is short enough so that for the most part it doesn't get in the way.

The Striker will be popular with Flux owners needing a new helmet, but we also think there are some conventional XC riders who will embrace the new softer, lower profile, more organic look. Available in sizes small/medium and large/extra large and silver, black, red/white and charcoal/black colour options. *Justin*

www.foxeurope.com

MOUNTAIN BIKE ★★★★★

"The Striker is a worthy successor to the Flux."

ALSO CONSIDER...

Giro Xar £115

★★★★★

The cross-country rider's trail helmet - the Xar is light, sleek, sexy and durable.

www.madison.co.uk



Specialized Vice £80

★★★★★

If you overlook the fixed visor, you have to work hard to find fault with the Vice.

www.specialized.com

Bell Variant £70

★★★★★

The Variant is a compact, no-fuss styling helmet that offers plenty of protection.

www.madison.co.uk