

Product Review – LAZER Chrono III Aero Helmet by Coach Daren

For the last two triathlon and time trial seasons I've worn a Garneau aero helmet. The Garneau fits well, carries all the typical safety ratings, and is fairly well ventilated for an aero helmet. For the 2008 season I will be trying out a new aero helmet – the LAZER Chrono III -- http://cms.horus.be/files/99933/MediaArchive/racing/velo_gd_4.jpg

At first glance, the Chrono III is a bit shorter than the old Garneau – the Chrono tail has less length. For me, as a 'rounded-back-rider' this is a nice feature. The longer tailed models like the Garneau actually rub my back when my head is in an upright (correct position for being aero) position.

I like the LAZER's 'Turnfit' retention system. Just dial in the desired setting on the rear head strap, and, with a quick reverse turn, the tension is released. This release is a nice feature compared to some other helmet models requiring more deliberate and sometimes two-handed tension release maneuvers. I also like how the Chrono III's straps fit around my ears; they simply just fit well right out of the box. There is a little felt chin protector that Velcro's around the chin buckle to make the strap more comfortable against the rider's chin. Personally I will not use this, as it seems to be one more thing to carry around. And, after a zillion miles on a bike with a helmet buckle on my chin – I really don't even notice them anymore.

One of my dislikes of the Garneau-type helmets is that they completely cover the rider's ears. This causes all, and I do mean all, the road and wind noise to reverberate inside the plastic shell helmet. This noise is a distraction, and while I did get used to it, the noise is simply a fatigue contributor I'd like to eliminate. The LAZER however only covers about 3/4 of the riders' ear, and keeps the bottom of the ear exposed. This has a significant affect on reduction – and I really like this feature.

At first glance one might comment that there are no air vents in the front of this aero helmet so it must be hot to wear. So far, and it is not yet hot Summer, it seems that the open rear vents draw air up and through the front and sides of the helmet and exhaust the air flow out the back. This is working well, but does need to be evaluated in the summer heat and humidity.

I've ridden with the LAZER helmet for a month now, and am as comfortable with it as I am with my standard road helmet (Giro Atmos). In 65 degree sunny days the LAZER is cool and comfortable. In our typical March and April windy riding conditions the LAZER is actually more quiet than my standard road helmet.

In summary – the LAZER Chrono III is a very comfortable, quiet, and easy to adjust and wear aero helmet. Well, time to go now...looks like I need to post an ad on Craigslist to sell my Garneau helmet!

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