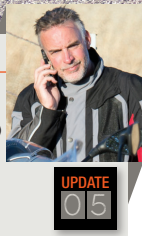




MARC COOK

**BMW S1000XR**

**WRIST:** Marc Cook  
**MSRP (2016):** \$19,790 (as tested)  
**MILES:** 14,101  
**MPG:** 38  
**MODS:** Fresh hard bags



The US importer for Spanish luggage manufacturer SHAD emailed asking if I'd try the company's SH36 saddlebags on the XR now that it had developed new mounts for the BMW. I told him that I really liked the factory accessory bags and he said, "Thanks. We make them for BMW." Imagine that. (I later found out the BMW accessory seat is also made by SHAD.) But ever the sucker for new product to test, I said to get UPS rolling. A few days later, I had mounts for the SH36s recycled from my Suzuki V-Strom long-termer last year—SHAD's rep asked me to hang onto them in case we had another bike they would fit in the future—along with an SH39 top box and all the mounts.

BMW has done luggage makers a service by building six threaded holes into the rear rack. The SHAD system picks up the forward four with steel plates that go in between the bike and the plastic top-box "shoe." The rear of the shoe bolts directly into the aft pair of holes. For the side cases, the SHAD system picks up the two

mounting points used by the factory accessory luggage; all three mount systems went on without a fuss.

SHAD's side cases hang from beefy tubular mounts, which makes them sturdier even than the BMW accessory cases, which tend to rock a bit on the pin that secures them to the bike. No complaints at all with the side-loading SHAD cases, which have nice internal floors and latches that you may leave unlocked for quick access to the internals. (The BMW bags allow this too.) And the extra capacity—36 liters each versus the BMW cases' 31—is welcome. My main complaint is the location SHAD has chosen to mount the cases on the bike, relatively high and forward, which also makes them wide. As in 41.7 inches wide, just under 4 inches wider than the BMW bags. Worse, the high/forward position makes it all but impossible to avoid kicking the far-side case when getting on the bike. SHAD, for its part, took my and another XR rider's feedback and is considering a modified mount to tighten up the installation.

Why bother at all with the SHAD ([shadusa.com](http://shadusa.com)) pieces? Price. The side cases are \$610 including mounts. The top case is \$225 including mount. Inner bags are a mere \$90. All told, the BMW luggage runs \$1,055 for the side cases and \$700 for a 30-liter top case.