

[TESTED]

SHAD SH58X Expandable Topcase

When Size Matters



WHEN RIDING LONG distance, my seldom-accessed and locked sidebags keep the weighty bulk of tools, electrical devices, personal items and clothing down low and further forward for good weight distribution. A topcase, however, is my go-to luggage for riding necessities at gas stops or quick side-of-road weather changes. Here I keep different gloves, clothing layers such as fleece, rain liners, heated gear and other necessary paraphernalia. The problem has always been to have a topcase that's small and aerodynamic, but large enough to carry what's needed—even stowing a helmet or some groceries at the end of a long day.

SHAD, which produces OEM luggage for many companies including BMW, has recently introduced the SHAD SH58X expandable topcase. As the name implies, the completely hard-shell topcase can be easily adjusted to one of three sizes. At the lowest and most aerodynamic setting, the case has a volume of 46 liters. The mid-setting increases volume to 52 liters while the highest and maximum volume is 58 liters.

Using a unique and very practical design, the upper part of the case shell and lid overlap the lower part of the case. There are two lock/release levers inside that make operating simple. Lift the levers toward the center of the case to release. Manually lift the rear of the case from the lowest to the mid or highest position. Press the levers back to the lock position and you're ready to roll. For reference, at the 58-liter setting, I could easily fit two modular helmets with headsets that protrude below the helmet sides making the helmets stand taller. At 52 liters, either helmet fits but not both, and at 46 liters, neither helmet fits.



↑ **Expandable:** the top half of the case slips over the bottom after releasing two levers inside the case. ← **An inner bag** is also available and expands as well. ↓ **The two-piece padded backrest** can be added for passenger comfort.



- **Specs:** Universal mounting plate, bike model fitting kits.
- **Features:** Expandable 46, 52, 58L.
- **Colors:** black/carbon, optional white, metal black or titanium covers.
- **Price:** \$399 w/baseplate, fitting kits \$60-\$100, covers \$75, backrest pads \$99, liner bag \$99.
- **Info:** shadonline.com

↘ **At its largest setting,** two full-face helmets can fit.



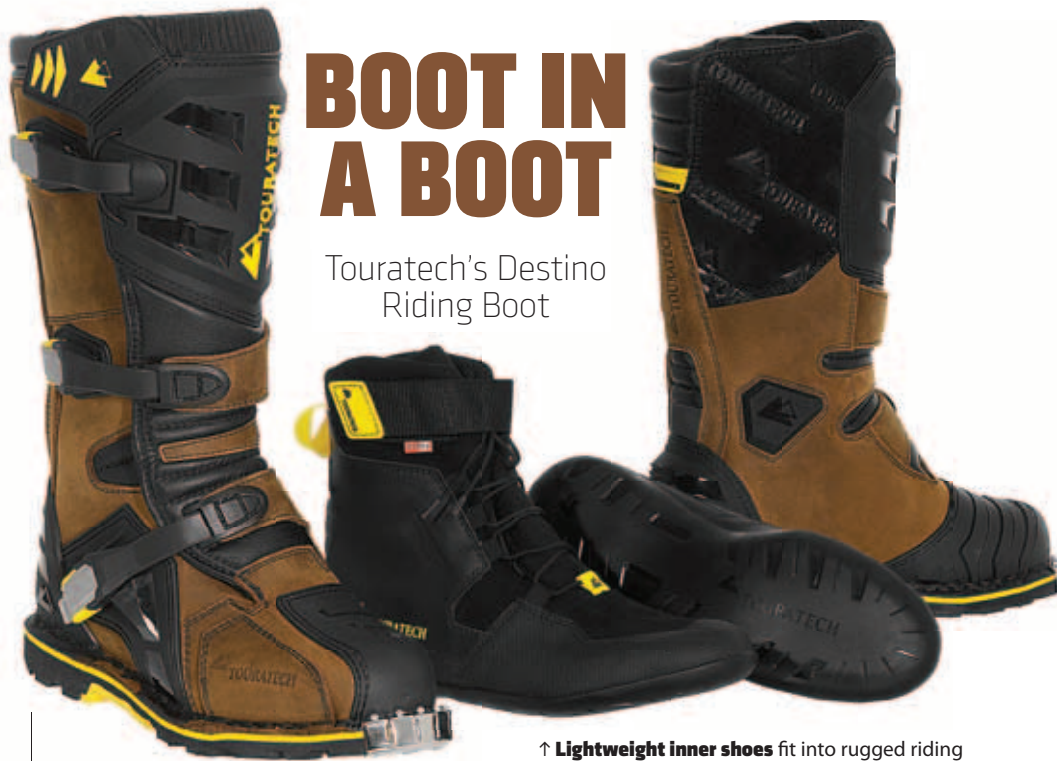
The SH58X also has a three-position key setting. First setting at 12 o'clock is locked, where the case can neither be removed from the bike nor opened. Second setting at three o'clock is unlocked so the case can be opened but the case can't be removed from the mount. Press in on the lock, the handle moves, and there is a lever to open the lid. No key is required. Third setting at five o'clock is the release position. The lock panel moves toward you to release the case from the mount. Push forward on the key panel and turn the key to lock the case to the mount. This is similar to some newer BMW bags.

Like other SHAD topcases, the SH58X comes with a universal baseplate, which must be mounted to the motorcycle, as well as some basic mounting hardware. The same baseplate is also used on the SH48, SH49 and SH50 topcases, so if you already are using one of these cases there's nothing else to install. SHAD also has optional Top Master fitting kits that are designed for easy baseplate installation on specific motorcycles (under an hour). I've used this on many different BMWs including a C650GT, F800GT, R1200GS and R1200RT.

There are a few options to personalize your topcase. In addition to the carbon-look top cover on the case as received, there is White, Metal Black or Titanium available. For passenger comfort, there's a two-piece set of backrest pads and to enhance safety, an optional brake light can be mounted to the underside of the topcase mounting plate. As a convenience, there's also an expandable liner bag available.—*James Wieman*

BOOT IN A BOOT

Touratech's Destino Riding Boot



A LONG-DISTANCE ADVENTURE rider needs rugged boots that can go the distance through all forms of extreme weather, terrain or circumstance. So it's a given that these heavy, rugged and protective boots would not also be the first choice for wearing to the restaurant or strolling down the avenue. For this, most riders carry a separate pair of shoes for off-bike use... until now.

Touratech's Destino's boot has solved this with an inner shoe that slips out of the off-road boot to be used as a lightweight walking shoe. There is even a built-in stainless steel loop on each boot for hanging and locking them to the bike after you take them off so you're set to step right back into the boots when you're ready to ride again.

The enduro-style, three-buckle outer boot is made of waxed leather with

↑ **Lightweight inner shoes** fit into rugged riding boot for walking around off the bike (steel toe caps are optional). ↓ **Stainless steel loops** allow the outer boots to be locked to the bike.



Outdry™ technology so it's water resistant and dries quickly (the inner shoe is waterproof—no more wet socks). The boot comes with an optional steel toe-cap, and impact-resistant polyurethane toe, shin and ankle protection. Destino is available in three colors: brown, black or white, all with black inner shoe, in Euro sizes 37-49. \$450, touratech-usa.com

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