

Apache braves the cold....

Apache Mini Tomahawk 50 and Apache RLX 100

Words & photography: Andy Foulkes

The Apache range is well established in the UK market, with a reputation for quality products, keen pricing and solid after-sales support through a nationwide network of some 400 dealers. Apache distribute a range of Taiwanese-manufactured quads from 50cc through to 250cc, plus a range of buggies, trailers, clothing, helmets and accessories. At *QUAD* we get to test a wide range of machinery from the Far East and the quality does vary considerably. And if some quads aren't up to scratch or we feel there is a problem, then we report the facts and pay for consequences such as cancelled advertising support, as happened very recently. But hey, *QUAD* readers deserve honest opinions

No such problem with these Apaches, though. From first sight you can tell these are at the top end of the market and closer inspection shows that quality is more than just skin deep.

Unusually, the plastic bodywork isn't colour impregnated, but appears to be painted. This certainly gives a high-gloss, quality finish, but in the course of heavy useage and in adverse conditions we guess that the paint will show signs of wear. But there again, so does the more 'normal' colour impregnated plastic. Of course, if it's painted then it can be re-painted to look good as new, and that really isn't a satisfactory option on colour impregnated plastics from our experience.

Undemeath the plastics, both the 50 Mini Tomahawk and the RLX 100 boast single A-Arms left and right up front, with pre-load adjustable shocks and a swingarm fitted with a single pre-load adjustable shock on the rear. These worked

well with good damping qualities on both machines. Braking duties on the 50 are taken care of with twin front and a single rear drums and on the 100 with twin drums up front and a single hydraulic disc on the rear.

In common with most other machines in the mini and lightweight quad classes, the engine/transmission units on both machines are scooter derived units featuring automatic, constant velocity transmissions. The 50 boasts a quiet, but peppy little four-stroke motor, while the 100 uses a well-silenced two-stroke engine with an oil injection system. ATV standard, right thumb throttles are fitted and can be restricted with the normal screw and locknut adjuster. Both machines come with ignition cutouts for safety; the 100 with a lanyard for wearing on the wrist and the 50 with the radio-controlled cutout that can be operated up to a distance of 100 meters by a supervising adult.

Our test day was bitterly cold and both Emma and Charlie, our mini quad test team, had to be

forced out onto the rock-hard Golding Barn junior test track. Both machines feature a throttle primer, rather than a choke and they were a little reluctant to start in the freezing conditions. It is doubtful that starting would be any problem in warmer weather and once running both machines ticked over and revved freely. Despite the reluctance of test riders and test quads, once they all warmed up they all performed their duties well. Both Apache quads chased round the hard and undulating test track with ease and the quality of the machines follows through in action with everything working the way it should do. On a warmer day we would have had trouble dragging the dynamic duo and the Apache quads off the track, but freezing kids, freezing adults and a freezing photographer brought the test to an end and we all retreated to a warmer place.

The Apache 50 Mini Tomahawk and the RLX 100 offer top class performance, excellent quality and competitive pricing. What else do you need?



APACHE MINI TOMAHAWK 50cc

Specifications:

Capacity:	50cc
Engine type:	Single cylinder four-stroke Automatic
Gears:	Automatic
Seat height:	560mm
Start method :	Electric and Kick backup
Suspension Front:	Double A-Arm
Suspension rear:	Swing Arm
Brakes:	Twin Front and Single Rear Drums
Safety:	Fully enclosed foot wells
Ignition Kill Switch:	Remote radio kill switch
Exhaust:	Sports Exhaust
Overall dimensions:	1200 x 800 x 750mm
Max load:	60kg
Colours:	Red, Yellow & Army Camouflage



Key features:

Safety top priority
Full Suspension
Remote control ignition kill switch with 100m range

Headlight
Front and rear brakes

Price: £580 plus VAT

APACHE RLX 100

Specifications:

Capacity:	100cc
Engine Type:	Single cylinder two-stroke Automatic
Gears:	Automatic
Seat height:	620mm
Start method:	Electric / Kick
Suspension Front:	Double A-Arm
Suspension Rear:	Swing Arm
Brakes:	Twin Front Drums. Single Rear Disc
Safety:	Fully enclosed foot wells Ignition cut-out lanyard
Exhaust:	Sports Exhaust
Lighting:	Front headlight with dip, rear brake light
Overall dimensions:	1400 x 926 x 965mm
Max load:	80kg
Colours:	Red, Yellow, Blue



Key features:

Mud monster tyres
Front nudge bar
Dual coloured sports seat

Price: £799 plus VAT

Test rider sizes



Apache 50 Mini Tomahawk
Test Rider: Charlie Beamish
Age: 6
Height: 3'11"
Weight: 3st 8lbs



Apache RLX100
Test Rider: Emma Foulkes
Age: 14
Height: 4'11"
Weight: 6st

CONTACT DETAILS

The APACHE range of quads and buggies is distributed in the UK by:
APACHE QUADS
Telephone: 01299 253 771
Email: sales@apachequads.com
Web: www.apachequads.com

APACHE distribute through over 400 dealers nationwide and also supply a full range of quads, buggies, clothing, accessories and trailers. Apache machines carry a 12 month parts warranty.

SAFETY

All APACHE machines comply with DTI, and health and Safety regulations and warning decals are affixed to the fenders for safe riding and operation.

QUAD recommends that all riders receive professional training by signing up to an approved training course. *QUAD* is associated with the European ATV Safety Institute (EASI)

EASI can be contacted on 01903 816286.

PLEASE NOTE

The APACHE 50 and 100 quads were delivered and tested in unrestricted form for this test. *QUAD* test riders have received riding instruction and are experienced quad riders. Quad machines sold to the public for the use of children must comply with the ATV Safety Regulations 2288 1989. Under these regulations an ATV that is designated for the 6 - 11yr age group must be restricted to a maximum speed of 10mph. With the restrictors removed the machine must only be able to reach a maximum speed of 15mph. An ATV that is designated for the 12 - 16 yr age group must be restricted to a maximum speed of 15mph and with the restrictors removed the machine must only be able to reach a maximum speed of 30mph. There are safety and legal issues to be considered if machines designed for children are de-restricted.

THANKS

To Steve and Dan Beamish at Golding Barn Raceway in Sussex for the use of the track for this test. Golding Barn Raceway is available for private hire. Call 01903 816758