

Tried Out

THE VERY BEST KIT – USED, ABUSED AND REVIEWED

When it comes to parting with your hard earned cash, it's nice to know that you're not wasting it on duff products. And to give you that reassurance, we're rating everything we can get our filthy mitts on...

SIDI MAG 1 BOOTS

TESTED BY: Bruce
MILES: 5,000
TIME: 1 year
PRICE: £299.99
FROM: www.sidiselect.co.uk

The teachers always said that I was a bright kid, and with these bad boys on no one can dispute that. Of course, fluorescents aren't for everyone, which is why Sidi offers a number of different colourways for their class-act MAG 1 boots. But while they'll differ in colour, they'll all benefit from the same considered design, build and quality. Made from Microfibre Microtech (a tough wearing fibre), the boots have proven to feel supple from the outset, offering an abundance of feel and finesse that's unparalleled in my opinion. They're also packed with smart external armour, including replaceable toe sliders, heel cups and a shin plate. And to make sure you're safe in the event of an accident, the MAGs also feature a shock absorbing system to make sure you stay as safe as possible.

In the year I've had these boots, we've taken on roads, tracks and the occasional high street. They're comfortable boots, when both walking and riding, made all the more comfy by their smart ratchet securing system that allows you to squeeze the tightness of the boot's outer to mirror your lower leg's profile. I'm a fan of it, and although a little fiddly at first, you soon get used to the novel function, which uses a quick release system to unravel the tightened cords. And in case you're wondering where the name MAG comes from, the answer is magnets, of course. Buried in the outer of the boot are magnets, which pair up with the magnetised tabs to help locate and speed up the ratcheting process. Simple.



BERING PRIMALOFT NECK TUBE

TESTED BY: Martin
MILES: 2,000
TIME: 2 years
PRICE: RRP £29.99
WEB: www.tranam.co.uk

Neck tubes... a bit dull, right? I get that, we've all got them, the free ones gathered at bikes shows or the one bearing your beloved steed's manufacturer logo. Or even better, one of the *Fast Bikes* labelled jobbies. Well, this one's a bit different. Made by Bering, the PrimaLoft® neck tube falls into a new category of technical accessory garment... fancy. You may have noticed the word PrimaLoft® in the title and while it does sound like a brand of loft insulation it's not. This version of PrimaLoft® uses Polar+ membrane to ensure maximum warmth and while some of you won't like the bulkiness of this tube, others who ride in all winter weather conditions will appreciate the decent seal that it makes between the area around your jacket, neck and helmet. Toasty!



RAM MOUNTS: STEM MOUNT HD

TESTED BY: Charlie
MILES: 2,000
TIME: 3 Months
PRICE: £39.99
WEB: www.tranam.co.uk

There is so much interchangeable tech on the market nowadays that finding 'aids' to your bike riding is not difficult, but as a sportsbike rider attaching them to your machine can be rather trying. Take my R6 as an example, the cockpit is snug and the clip-ons are too close to the fairing to add anything substantial to the region even if there was room to do so... which is where the 13mm Stem Mount from Ram Mounts comes into its own. It's a very simple and effective solution that involves simply sliding the mount into the stem before tightening it into position via an Allen key that expands the rubber plug inside the stem.

Finally, complete the ball mount with a cover that is inserted into the 6mm hex of the mounting bolt. What you are left with is a sturdy ball socket that can then be used for any number of interchangeable mounts, again available from RAM and the companies they support whether it be for your action camera, sat-nav or mobile phone (as pictured with Small X-Grip smartphone holder-£42.99 and Short Arm double socket £19.99). Though simple in design it's extremely effective and non-obtrusive when not in use, but when used with a phone for example, the vibration absorbing rubber cuts out vibrations.

It's just as easy to remove your devices too for security, or in case you have been pulling the occasional naughty and you don't want the law to see what you've been up to. The R6 works with a 13mm size but larger stems are catered for with 15, 16 and 19mm available. It's money well spent in my opinion. Oh, and there's a whole host of other great bolt-on bits on www.tranam.co.uk if you fancy further pimpage...

