

## KIT ON TEST



### VERTIX RAPTOR-i

■ £169.99 single, £299.99 twin

[www.motohaus.com](http://www.motohaus.com)

LIFE'S TOO SHORT to master the intricacies of intercoms and other in-helmet Bluetooth devices, isn't it? That's pretty much what I'd decided, until the Vertix Raptor-i came along.

It's very, very easy to use. The point is that you don't need to master the intricacies at all, because there aren't any. I'm really dim at this stuff, but I only needed to spend about five minutes having it explained to me – and if you forget, there's a very simple diagram provided with the instructions to explain all the basics. There

are very few buttons, and they're all a good size so they can be operated on the move by gloved fingers.

As well as being easy to fit and use, the Raptor-i has speed-adaptive noise filtering to give better-than-usual clarity, whether or not you're wearing earplugs.

With minimal effort or swearing, I've made it work with my phone and a GPS, and I've used the built-in radio successfully. I'm still working on pairing it with an MP3 player, though. I suspect I won't ever feel the urge to talk to another rider, but it's capable of communicating over 800 metres with two other riders. It comes as a single-rider unit or with a pillion headset, with all the hardware needed. **CO**

### RUKKA RYTM GLOVES

■ £89 [www.tranam.co.uk](http://www.tranam.co.uk)

I DON'T HAVE a wealth of experience with using short gloves, as I've always preferred the reassurance of a long gauntlet encasing my wrists in plastic and metal. But a few months ago the Rytmis landed on my desk, and it didn't take long for them to become my default riding gloves. Granted, if I'm riding anything remotely sporty I'll still reach for the Rev'Its, but for commuting or any situation where convenience is paramount, these tick all the boxes.

They're so easy to use. Just slip them on and a Velcro wrist strap holds them in place with absolutely no faffing about with double-cuff wrist closures, or wrestling them over jacket sleeves. They're really comfy too, being made from goat skin and featuring a padded palm, decent knuckle



armour, a few discreet reflective bits and some clever gold stuff on the finger tips that allow you to work touchscreen devices.

They're also cool enough to use all day in hot weather, and warm enough to use for short trips in cold temperatures. **LS**



### How we test kit

RiDE is the home of serious testing of motorcycle clothing and accessories. No other British motorcycle magazine goes to as much trouble as we do to obtain, use, compare and appraise kit.

Our comparison tests, which reward the most impressive gear with Best Buy and Recommended triangles, are respected worldwide.

As well as conducting several of those big RiDE Product Tests every year, we are constantly using new and familiar kit, featured on these pages.

### Where to buy it

A growing selection of gear endorsed by RiDE is available from a special RiDE zone on the MCN Shop. Go straight there by clicking the link at [www.ride.co.uk](http://www.ride.co.uk).

### Jargon buster

**CE approval:** European product safety labelling system. If something has CE approval it means the product has been tested and found to meet a certain standard. Confusion arises because you have to read the label to see precisely what it applies to – often it refers only to the armour in a product, not the product as a whole. For a more detailed explanation of the CE marking system for bike gear, visit the blog at [www.ride.co.uk](http://www.ride.co.uk).

**ACU Gold:** Sticker required on any helmet used on track.

**ECE22-05:** Helmets sold in the UK are tested to this standard.

**Sharp:** This government scheme awards helmets a rating out of five – see [sharp.direct.gov.uk](http://sharp.direct.gov.uk)

**Snell test:** US helmet safety standard. Universally respected, but has no standing in British law.