

Keela Belay Pro, £79.95



Tested by Andy Davidson
Time tested Five months/
8000 miles

What's good? After moaning about my cold commutes I received two emails from readers who both suggested the same thermal jacket from Keela, as they're used by mountain rescue teams. And I'm thankful they did because the Belay Pro quickly became my go-to thermal and the only mid-layer I wear for my commute and road testing duties. It's incredibly light and packs up small in my bag, but most importantly it compresses under my outer jacket so it's super-comfortable and incredibly warm. It's also water-resistant so I can wear the jacket on its own when I'm walking about. And it's wind-resistant too, which does away with the need for extra layers.

What's not? At £80 it's pricey for a thermal, but it has become my favourite bit of kit. I haven't gone anywhere without it this winter, both on and off-the bike, making it a great investment as an all-round winter warmer.

Contact www.keela.co.uk

Quality ★★★★★ **Value** ★★★★★



Belay Pro mid-layer packs down small to take up less space in a rucksack

FIVE MONTHS

Starlane Stealth GPS-3X £314



Tested by Emma Franklin
Time tested Four months/five meetings

What's good Having a lap timer with built-in GPS means there's no need to have your own infra-red beacon on the pit wall. The Stealth is well built, waterproof, and boasts impressive functionality like a 99-lap memory which is downloadable to your PC via a USB memory stick, automatic start/finish line detection, best lap and ideal lap display. You can also use it as a datalogger via the DigiRace software (£90 extra).

What's not This lap timer looks good on paper but it's too unreliable. The GPS signal drops out intermittently, leading to inconsistent timings. When it works it's accurate to within a thousandth of a second to my racing transponder time, but it only reliably records three out of every five laps.

Contact starlane.com

Quality ★★★★★

Value ★★★★★

★★★★★



FOUR MONTHS

Alpinestars Copper denim jeans £169.99



Tested by Andy Downes
Time tested Two years/
8500 miles

What's good? Unlike many of the protective jeans I have tried over the years, these remain comfortable over long distances, and don't make me too hot in warmer climates. Plus, when I was hit by a car on a roundabout last summer, despite flying over a the bonnet and rolling down the road, I remained scrape-free and the jeans were intact. They also look like normal jeans rather than some stonewashed costume prop from a 1980's TV drama about East German political activists. I've done lots of miles in these and they remain in good condition and haven't faded much. They come with removable CE-approved knee armour.

What's not? Clearly the protection these offer is lower than leathers or more bulky motorcycle jeans, but I am comfortable and happy with that compromise, although this may not suit other riders.

Contact www.alpinestars.com

Quality ★★★★★ **Value** ★★★★★



8500 MILES

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FOUR BIKING SAT-NAVS

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1 TomTom Rider 40 WE £279.99

The cheaper of TomTom's two units featured here shares the vast majority of the features found on the more expensive Rider 400, including the winding roads feature that steers you clear of boring stretches of road, and the rotating screen. However it lacks the speed camera warning function.



2 TomTom Rider 400 EU £319.99

TomTom went to town when they created the Rider 400, with a screen that rotates from landscape to portrait, a winding roads feature so you can ditch the highway and go the fun way, and comes with all the mounts you need to secure it to your bike. It even warns you where the speed cameras are.



3 Garmin Zumo 590LM £549.99

The 5in screen makes Garmin's range-topper the largest unit here and, like the TomTom, it can be viewed in widescreen or portrait. It uses Garmin's own Curvy Roads feature that allows you to bypass boring roads, and it also features lane-assist, ideal for fathoming confusing junctions.



4 Garmin Zumo 390LM £439.99

The lower-priced Garmin has a smaller screen than the 590LM and it only works in widescreen, but it has most of the top features like Curvy Roads and lane-assist. If you have a Bluetooth communication system in your lid you can listen to the audio instructions, and the sat-nav continually shows your current speed and the current road's limit.



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