

Kriega R15 Backpack £85**Tester** Michael Guy**Time tested** One year/1000 off-road miles

What's good? I used this Kriega R15 rucksack for a year competing in the All Terrain Rally Challenge, where it doubled up as a hydro pack by adding Kriega's three-litre Hydrapak reservoir 3L (£29) while giving me the capacity to carry tools, rags, spare gloves and goggles. The shoulder straps are more akin to a harness, which means the fully loaded bag is easy to carry and never makes my shoulders ache. It also has a fully waterproof internal pocket.

What's not? You could balk at the £85 price tag for a rucksack, but this is an item that I expect to last for years to come.

Contact www.kriega.com**Quality** ★★★★★**Value** ★★★★★**ONE
YEAR****Shoei VFX-W £319.99 solid colour (£399.99 colours)****Tester** Tim Thompson**Time tested** Three months

What's good? This beautifully made, top-of-the-range Shoei is targeted at off-road riders who know what they're doing but it works for me too. It's incredibly light (1270g in a medium) and has a wide open aperture that gives a totally uncluttered view, even under my nose. Best of all, it's cool. As a novice I find even simple dirt manoeuvres hard work yet the combination of 3D Max-Dry liner and efficient air flow at low speeds keeps my temperature under control. The peak angle is easily adjustable and comes with adhesive anti-glare stickers. Shoei's Emergency Quick Release System cheekpads are reassuring too.

What's not? It accepts spectacles readily but is a little tighter on the temples than a normal medium Shoei.

Contact www.feridax.com**Quality** ★★★★★ **Value** ★★★★★**THREE
MONTHS****Forcefield Tornado neck warmer £24.99****Tester** Andy Downes**Time tested** Three months/900 miles

What's good? This simple-but-effective neck warmer has been hugely welcome over the winter as a brilliant way of keeping out the cold windblast while commuting in the worst of winter. It's comfortable, easy to use and stashes away in a pocket easily when not in use. The breathing holes at the front prevent it getting damp with breath. If it does get wet it dries quickly.

What's not? It's not a failure of the product but in hindsight I wish I'd chosen the balaclava version as I think it would be easier to keep in place when putting my lid on.

Contact www.forcefieldbodyarmour.com**Quality** ★★★★★**Value** ★★★★★**900
MILES****MCN shop.com****TOP FOUR
LEATHER JACKETS
FOR LESS THAN £250**Buy one on MCNshop.com**Oxford RP-5 £199.99**

Full-grain cowhide jacket with hidden stitching to maintain integrity in a spill and overlays in key areas to add extra protection.

**FLM Ladies Zero £194.99**

Made from supple 1.2mm leather, it has CE-approved shoulder and elbow armour and a pocket for an optional back protector.

**Richa Mugello £249.99**

Richa reckon their Mugello covers all bases, including track riding – as you'd expect for a jacket named after a famous circuit.

**RST Tractech Evo 2
£239.99**

Smart and sporty jacket with triple and double-stitched seams on the 1.1-1.3mm cowhide.

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