

THE 10,000 MILE TEST

Held Air N Dry | Price £159.99 | Info www.held-uk.co.uk

“The best and most versatile gloves I’ve owned in 20 years”



HOW WE TEST KIT

No other British motorcycle magazine goes to as much trouble as RiDE does to obtain, use, compare and appraise kit. As well as conducting several RiDE Product Tests every year, we are constantly using new and familiar kit, featured here.

Where to buy it A growing selection of gear endorsed by RiDE is available from a special RiDE zone on the MCN Shop website. Find it by clicking the link at www.ride.co.uk.

JARGON BUSTER

CE approval: European product safety labelling system. Check what the CE label on a garment applies to - is it the whole jacket or just the armour? For boots, look for CE EN 13634; for jackets and trousers it's EN 13595; for body armour it's EN 1621 (where Level 2 is more protective than Level 1). Remember, you don't have to wear CE-approved gear, but if it's not CE approved, it can't be sold as protective clothing.

Sharp: UK government helmet-testing scheme - see sharp.direct.gov.uk



MISSED ONE OF OUR PRODUCT TESTS?

In the December 2015 issue we tested heated kit. In April we tested bike covers, and in January 2015 we rated premium textile suits. You can order recent print editions of RiDE from 01858 438 884, and buy tablet editions from Google Play or the Apple Newsstand.

PERFORATED PALM

Well-vented kangaroo leather palm offers good abrasion resistance, as well as decent feel.



CHOOSE YOUR SIDE

This tab helps divide the glove into a 'Dry' side (Gore-Tex lining) and a 'Breezy' side (improved ventilation).



FOR YEARS I'VE gone riding with two pairs of gloves: one for feel; and one waterproof. Those days are over for me. The Held Air N Dry glove has an ingenious two-chamber system, letting you choose which type of glove you want to use. On one side of the flap there's plenty of feel and venting from the kangaroo palm; on the other, slightly less feel but a waterproof Gore-Tex lining.

It really is two gloves in one. And while the idea of having to put your hand in one of the two chambers might sound a bit fiddly, in practice putting fingers straight into the correct position is a doddle.

When using the Gore-Tex side, the gloves have proven to be warm enough for spring and autumn use. Only when it turns to winter do I need to switch to a dedicated pair of warmer gloves.

I've ridden 20,000 miles in them, touring round Europe and the UK over the past 18 months or so. In that time, the Gore-Tex side hasn't leaked once, despite being

caught in some torrential downpours. The vented side has helped keep my hands cool through the 38°C heat of Portugal, and on an equally sweltering ride across Germany to Garmisch for the annual BMW festival.

Minor niggles are that the Cordura fingertips have started to go a little fluffy, the leather surrounding the knuckles has discoloured, and the palms didn't stay bright grey for long. They're now decidedly black. But these really are just minor niggles.

Overall, these are the best and most versatile gloves I've owned in almost 20 years of biking. I'll be after another pair when I finally manage to kill these ones - though that doesn't look as if it'll be any time soon.

MARK MANNING *R*



► Fraying fingertips look messy but haven't affected performance