



Forecast: 100%
chance of riding



Spada Nodachi £249.99

**Seven
months
ON TEST**

Clean looks, serious protection



**Tested by
Adam Oldfield
for 1585 miles**

The motorcycling equivalent of a classic plain white T-shirt, this jacket is anything but basic. Rather than simple, think versatile: it looks just as good with riding jeans as it does with touring textiles, and even fits the bill for adventure riding. I genuinely believe it could cover

all your textile needs. The clean styling is backed up by practical details, like the well-thought-out pocket options, including rear hip pockets and spacious internal ones, along with a suite of ventilated TetraHex CE Level 2 armour.

It's lightweight too, built from a PU-coated 10K waterproof polyester outer with 16K breathability. All those numbers mean you stay cool and dry on and off the bike. Storm

cuffs and a stowaway hood tucked into the collar add extra weather protection, and it's become my go-to over the past few months.

There isn't a thermal liner included, but that's no drawback. Pair it with winter base and mid-layers when it's cold or open the vents in summer – it works comfortably across all seasons.

MCN rating ★★★★★
www.spadaclothing.com

Oxford Mint Insect Remover 500ml £9.99

Banish those baked-on bugs



**Tested by
Emma Franklin
for 12 months**

There's no more satisfying job than rehydrating those pesky baked-on bugs after a long, hot summer ride. As we're entering bug-splat season, this 500ml bottle of minty-smelling Oxford Mint Insect Remover is just the ticket for getting that gross blanket of winged critters off your bike's bodywork without resorting to a full wash. On a cool bike, simply spray on, wait for the solution to penetrate the obliterated arthropod, then wipe off. I used it on the rather large front fairing of my Kawasaki Ninja 1100SX SE last summer and found that, although effective, it does

take a liberal amount of remover to fully clean off large baked-on splats and it often needed a second spray and wipe over in order to first loosen the debris then another to wipe away the smear. But the result is exactly as you'd expect – bug banished – and it leaves behind a clean, shiny finish as well as that rather addictive mint fragrance. For people who'd rather spot clean rather than do a full wash, it's worth the £10. This 500ml bottle saw me through last summer and no doubt will see me through the coming season. It's biodegradable so you don't have to worry about chemicals contaminating your surroundings, either.

MCN rating ★★★★★
www.oxfordmint.co.uk



**It's like Colgate
for your bodywork**

**Sidi Taurus GTX
boots £489.99**

Bullish protection



**Tested by
Richard Newland
for five months**

If you ride in all weathers, as I do, there's one thing about these boots that'll blow your mind: they're genuinely, completely and utterly waterproof. I've ridden in absolutely appalling weather, when all my other kit has given up, and my feet were still 100% dry. The microfibre upper does absorb and retain water, and even 24hrs after a soaking ride, they'll still be damp – but no worse than any other boot.

So, what else? Well – they're certainly rather expensive, but are they good value? The first 2000 miles were characterised by them feeling very rigid, bordering on the uncomfortable for my broad size 11s, but once they start to break in, they have become much more comfortable, and I've done multiple full days on the bike while enjoying their support and protection. I still wouldn't go for a long walk in them, but they're spot-on when riding.

Talking of protection, they're rated at the highest Level 2 for the extent of their shin coverage, transverse rigidity, impact abrasion resistance and impact cut resistance. They're also rated as waterproof and tested for shin impact protection. They do feel convincingly well armoured and



Rugged and totally waterproof too

'built', too – but nowhere near as bulky, heavy or restrictive as a motocross boot. They're more like a well armoured courier boot, and the lack of bulk means they slip easily under all the riding jeans and textile pants I've tried them with. I've worn them on a Tiger 1200, R1300GSA, Z900RS, GSX-S1000GT and DR-Z4S, and they worked perfectly with all in terms of flexibility, gear changes, and support. The only negative was that I appear to have ended up 'toeing' the gear lever on upshifts on the Tiger, missing the reinforced shift pad, and consequently damaging the microfibre upper. Still waterproof – but uglier for the damage.

The main Velcro flap fastener works well, and the NUUN 001M fastener dials (you know, like BOA?) give stepless adjustment at the ankle and top of foot. They work brilliantly, but can be tricky to release with cold wet hands.

On any surface, the Materiis soles have proved grippy and slip-free, and are wearing well too.

Understated (in black), and devoid of pointless fripperies. All-in-all, one of the most impressive boots I've worn.

MCN rating ★★★★★
www.sidiuk.com

**5500
miles
ON TEST**

**High-tech and
decent performance**

**500
miles
ON TEST**

**Sena Phantom full-face with
Mesh Intercom £439**

Excellent integrated tech



**Tested by Steve
Herbert-Mattick**

Comfy all day, quiet, drop-down visor works well. Venting a bit so-so. When I remember to turn them on, rear lights mean I'm extra visible and a chin bar light is useful for finding my garage key in the dark. It's easy to pair with my phone, the

built-in Harman Kardon headset is excellent: deep bass and crisp, clear sound for music and calls does everything I want it to, but lacks some of the plushness of premium lids. I like it very much, but when the tech is so good, how much of my cash is going in to the important bit?

MCN rating ★★★★★
sena.com

