



Dainese Corso Abshell Pro jacket £299

'Good for all weathers'



Tested by Carl Stevens for eight months

The Corso Abshell Pro jacket is a beautiful bit of kit that is perfect to sling on for a quick ride, whatever the weather.

Not only does it look the part but it feels comfortable too, with a nice internal fabric that is comfortable on your skin all day long. It's incredibly light and waterproof even in seriously heavy rain, as are the lower pockets which stay nice and warm to stick your hands in on cooler days; yet it's not too thick for warmer days either.

The detachable thermal jacket is a really nice touch that not only keeps you even warmer but is also usable and stylish as a standalone jacket, with additional pockets, too.

It's my go-to jacket for do-it-all riding, but even though it's fairly expensive at £299, the Corso Abshell Pro jacket has only achieved Class-A certification for protection – the lowest standard if the worst was to happen.

Alongside this, the integrated armour that sits in the shoulders and elbows are incredibly comfortable as mentioned, but they're also quite soft and thin.

MCN rating ★★★★★
www.dainese.com

Carl's go-to jacket for everyday rides

4000 miles ON TEST



Nexx X.R3R £469.99

'Suitably space-age'



Tested by Charlotte King for 800 miles and one trackday

Getting ready to head out on my first trackday, I needed a proper race lid. I opted for the Nexx X.R3R as I was really drawn to the look of it, with the big rear spoiler and bold colour choices. I went for the orange and blue Glitch design because, in my opinion, a racing helmet should be as outrageously vivid as possible. The iridium visor and spoiler just complete the space-age look.

It's proven to be very much a 'marmite' helmet, with comments being very much love or hate. The spoiler is easily removable with a couple of small screws, but I kept it on.

It's a really comfortable lid, fitting snugly with a removable plush interior, handy for keeping it clean after a sweaty ride. Ventilation is adequate, but the vents are a little fiddly to open and close with gloves on. The visor was an nightmare to change, as you have to push the retaining clips in and twist it all in one move – I ended up having to get a spare pair of hands to hold the catches.

My biggest gripe with this helmet is the chin strap, it's far too long and the magnetic catch doesn't work

3 months ON TEST



Buckling up the Nexx ready to go on track proved a rather tricky task

terribly well because it's tucked away inside the shell somewhere. It took three of us to fathom how to use it before sending me out on track. In the end I just ended up fastening the Double-D ring catch and simply tucking the excess strap inside the helmet lining.

There is no capacity for adding an intercom, but I suppose being a sporty track-focused lid, that isn't a huge surprise. It would be a nice addition though, as I do like to listen to music when I ride and have yet to find a good enough pair of headphones to ride in. The shell is carbon fibre, and it's reasonably light at 1350g for the small shell size, which means you don't tire as much from wearing it.

I can see myself wearing it a lot for summer blasts, but wouldn't opt for it for longer rides.

MCN rating ★★★★★
www.nexx-helmet.co.uk

Oxford Mondial Waterproof (long cuff) £99.99

'Tough enough for most adventures'



Tested by Robin Kirkley for 1400 miles

These are well-made gloves with lots of protection and some cool features, such as the visor wipe on the left hand and a waterproof membrane that has proven itself in the heaviest of downpours.

So far I've found the touchscreen compatibility to be faultless, which comes in handy for using my satnav, and I feel the design complements the rest of my adventure kit.

It's also good to know that these gloves give solid protection, with CE Level 1 protective elements built in

Solid performer all year round

5 months ON TEST



for the knuckles, fingers, palms and wrists. My fingers are on the stubbier side and as a result the tough construction is a bit tight across my hand, but even so they haven't stretched much at all.

They're not really warm enough on colder days and on the few scorches I've enjoyed my short-cuff summer

gloves have breathed better, but for most of the year these are quality gloves I can wear with confidence.

Knowing how unpredictable the British weather can be, the Oxford Mondial are a safe bet to have in my riding armoury.

MCN rating ★★★★★
oxfordproducts.com

It's tiny but very tough

1 month ON TEST



Oxford M1R Micro Tank Bag £44.99

'Small but perfectly formed'



Tested by Steve Herbert-Mattick for 150 miles

Got a metal tank? Lucky you, as you can benefit from the uber-convenience of a magnetic tank bag. And they don't come much more convenient than Oxford's petit M1R.

Made from 420 ripstop nylon, this bag's one-litre capacity is just enough for daily gubbins like your

phone, sunglasses, wallet and a disc lock. The strong magnets in the base keep it in place at all speeds, but a headstock strap adds security.

A large, clear window means you can see your phone or satnav screen, but be aware if you're charging the device and it's raining as the window can steam up. Only the zip is water resistant, but it hasn't leaked so far.

MCN rating ★★★★★
www.oxfordproducts.com