

On the bike... or down the pub

MCN staff give riding gear of all shapes and sizes a good going over. Find more at www.mcshop.com



Harley-Davidson #1 Vintage leather jacket, £404.72



Tester: Ped Baker
Time tested: 2000 miles/four months

What's good? The #1 Vintage is a jacket that has quickly found its way into my top 10 all-time favourite bits of riding kit alongside my Ruby lid and Belstaff Trialmaster. With subtle branding and faultless construction, it's ideal for summer cruising or wearing down the pub. From Harley's Black Label range of more understated, urban style clothing, the leather is what they call 'antiqued' with a dulled, lived-in appearance. The embroidered logo on the back is just subtle enough to not be too in-your-face and the H-DMC moniker (Harley-Davidson Motor Company) is a bit different to the usual bar and shield Harley logo. A 'tall' version of the jacket is also available that, as the name suggests, is longer in the body and sleeves.

What's not? There is zero body armour and no provision for any, plus while the leather is exquisite, it's not that thick. Think of it more as a casual jacket you can ride in.

Contact: www.harley-davidson.com

Quality rating: ★★★★★
Value rating: ★★★★★

Top 3 details

1. H-DMC logo on the chest stands for Harley-Davidson Motor Company.
2. The embroidered back patch is nicely done and subtle enough for down the pub.
3. Detailing on the pockets and fastenings is, as you'd expect for a £400 jacket, exceptional.



IAN JUBB



Ugly Fish sunglasses, £39.99



Tester: Andy Calton
Time tested: 1500 miles/three months

What's good? I tried a few different shades for my Route 66 trip before choosing these. Most were hard to get under an open-face lid with the arms digging into my face, but these had short arms and laid against my face comfortably. They're pretty cheap too, I didn't want to wear a £200 pair in case I lost them. They come with foam 'inners' that form a seal between the lenses and your face to keep wind out of your eyes.

What's not? What makes them good as a riding set of shades, makes them feel a little unstable for normal wear as the arms don't really anchor the shades to your face.

Contact: www.thekeycollection.co.uk

Quality rating: ★★★★★
Value rating: ★★★★★



Held Rano jacket £69.99 and Tempest trousers £41.99



Tester: Simon Relph
Time tested: 1000 miles/18 months

What's good? It's that time of year again when you cannot trust the weather. It might feel like a leathers day when you set out for a ride, but can soon turn into a waterproofs day. These are perfect for such rides. Both can be rolled into a reasonable size to be carried around, either strapped to the bike or in a small tank bag. The long zips on the trouser legs make them easy to put on over boots when caught out in a shower. Light, windproof and waterproof... just the job.

What's not? They can get a bit sweaty if you are riding in muggy summer conditions, but they are fine in winter weather.

Contact: www.held-uk.co.uk

Quality rating: ★★★★★
Value rating: ★★★★★



Storm Buff neckwarmer, £28.99



Tester: Tony Hoare
Time tested: 8000 miles/three years

What's good? Even the depths of a British winter can't defeat this tough Buff, with its combination of Gore Windstopper material to keep the chill away from your neck, and a thinner material to cover your nose and mouth to keep you snug inside your helmet. If it's really cold you can even have the Windstopper section up around your nose and mouth and be able to breathe just fine, and you'll also have less bulk around your jacket fastening. It's the best neckwarmer I've used.

What's not? The price seems high, but it'll still be performing well in five years' time (unlike many of the cheapo ones knocking around).

Contact: www.buffwear.co.uk

Quality rating: ★★★★★
Value rating: ★★★★★



Held Sensato gloves, £74.99



Tester: Andy Calton
Time tested: 2000 miles/six months

What's good? These are great summer gloves. The kangaroo hide leather palms are supple and comfortable, while the hard plastic knuckle protection is beefy and reassuring. Although these are undoubtedly for fine weather use only, they are fairly thick and can be worn if it gets a little chilly. There's a wrist and cuff fastening and the two stretch panels mean you can get them adjusted for a perfect fit. The construction and stitching are good quality and nothing has failed so far. Not a bad price either, from a top motorcycling brand.

What's not? So far nothing... not that they've had the ultimate test yet.

Contact: www.held-uk.co.uk

Quality rating: ★★★★★
Value rating: ★★★★★