

TRIED & TESTED

MCN STAFF RATE THEIR RIDING KIT

★★★★★

Handy, bar-grabbing goodness



Foam filled scaphoid sliders

7200 miles ON TEST

Knox Handroid Mk5 £259.99

A whole lotta glove!



Tested by Justin Hayzelden for two years

Gloves are one of the trickiest bits of kit to get right, not least because they're such a complex garment to make, but also that hands rarely come in a standard size. I've found from experience that the closest fit for my wide palm/stubby fingers combo is from Cockermouth-based firm Knox, and thus my primary reason for choosing the terminator-styled Handroid Mk5 was comfort. Being comfortable plays an important part where safety is concerned, and there's nothing worse than the nagging you get when things don't quite fit right. Like a helmet or boots, gloves need to be spot-on, and I know each time I slide my hand into the Handroids there won't be any

flappy fingertips, bunched palms or tight knuckles, as they feel practically made to measure. Knox have lined the wrist closure, back of the hand and top of the fingers, along with the thumb, with a soft, low-friction fabric that gives a plush, high-end feel. Internal seams at the fingertips can be a matter of debate, but I rather like it, and with regards to the case in point find it makes for a snug and secure sensation for throttle grip and levers. Despite all that external armour and the exoskeleton, they're actually a very light glove to wear, and there's no restriction within the usual range of on-bar movements. I've been just as happy hooning around Cadwell in them, as I have nipping into town or pounding out a long-distance tour. Ventilation is minimal, with no mesh panels or perforations (save for a

couple on the underside of the fingers), but that's not unusual. Which brings us on to protection, and the Handroids feel abundantly sturdy and substantial enough to keep my hands safe. Thick, cowhide leather makes up the majority of the construction, with flexible and durable kangaroo leather for the palm and grip, held together with robust stitching that's remained perfectly intact to date. Hard armour doesn't stop at the knuckle and fingers, because Knox have also attached their trademark plastic scaphoid and palm sliders, backed with Micro-Lock impact absorbent foam. A similarly constructed panel wraps around the outside of the cuff, protecting the wrist. As important as all this is, it would mean nothing if the gloves slid easily off your hands, however, Knox's

wide wrist cincher and BOA cuff fastener keep them securely in place. The rotary knob and cable system of the BOA won't be to everyone's taste, but I find it reassuring, and like how it can easily be adjusted to suit. Given how tough they feel, it's interesting that the Handroids are only certified to the lower CE 1 KP. As a compromise between comfort and protection though, they're still my first choice sports glove. **MCN rating**★★★★★ **planet-knox.com**

PROS & CONS

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All-day comfortable, reassuringly sturdy

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CE Level 1, tricky to clean, can look a bit OTT



External armour protects fingers



BOA fastener keeps them in place