

Gloves are heaven for hands

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



Top 3 details

1. Wrist strap. Velcro wrist restraint provides extra reassurance and fit.
2. Visor wipe. This is no gimmick, it actually comes in useful for clearing your visor in wet conditions.
3. Scaphoid protector. Gel insert reduces the force transferred to the difficult-to-heal scaphoid bone in the event of a crash.

Supple goat-skin leather and Gore-Tex provide supreme fit and all-weather protection



Racer Stratos Gore-Tex X-Trafit, £139.99



Tester: Steve Hunt

Time tested: 8 months/4000 miles

What's good? Gloves are an essential piece of riding kit, and for me their comfort is even more crucial than that of a helmet. Uncomfortable helmets are just annoying, but if gloves don't fit right they interfere with the feel of the controls and can become dangerous. No such worry with these Gore-Tex gloves from Racer. Supple goatskin leather and a sublime fit mean these are the greatest pair of gloves I've ever owned. The dual lower-palm and wrist fastenings are excellent, and even the seemingly gimmicky visor wipe on the left thumb does its job admirably.

What's not? These gloves aren't cheap, so you'll need to know that they are going to pay you back over time. Eight months and three seasons in, they're doing just that.

Contact: www.tranam.co.uk

Quality rating: ★★★★★

Value rating: ★★★★★



Overboard large phone case, £13.29



Tester: Andy Davidson

Time tested: Two months/4700 miles

What's good? I've been using Overboard products for around five years and they don't disappoint; the phone case and similar small pouches are especially excellent. The large phone case is big enough for my passport, phone and cash. It's 100% waterproof and submersible up to a guaranteed six metres. The pouch is perfect for touring as I don't have to faff around with sandwich bags or worry about a soggy wallet at the end of a ride. I've tested it in the sea and it works perfectly – although I've never dared to go six metres down!

What's not? Nothing. Under £15 for a totally waterproof bag is fantastic. You can use a touchscreen phone through the pouch, take pictures underwater and it floats.

Contact: www.over-board.co.uk

Quality rating: ★★★★★

Value rating: ★★★★★



Oxford Aquatex bike cover, £25



Tester: Andy Downes

Time tested: Eight years, at least!

What's good? I use this outdoor cover on my own 1998 Honda CBR600F-W when it's stored in my garage and, despite being over-engineered for indoor use, I like the extra protection from accidental damage it offers. When my two young children are dumping BMX bikes, scooters and all manner of other gubbins near the bike, this cover keeps it safe from scratches and scuffs. It fits nicely, tucks in tightly and, thanks to the lock cut-outs, I can still use chains to attach the bike to a ground anchor. It's now been superseded by a higher specification version at a similar price and for £25 it offers brilliant protection.

What's not? The thickness of the material means it won't fold up small when not in use.

Contact: www.oxprod.com

Quality rating: ★★★★★

Value rating: ★★★★★



Blue-Point Turbo T-bar £56



Tester: Emma Franklin

Time tested: Five months

What's good? Ordinary T-bars are the slickest way of removing bolts manually, but this Turbo T-bar by Blue-Point has taken speedy removal to the next level. I first saw this tool in the talented hands of the TAS Tyco Suzuki mechanics, as they worked on Guy Martin's bike in the NW200 paddock, and knew then that we needed one for our garage at home. The stainless steel body is robust, and the anodised blue aluminium handle spins freely allowing for the tool to spin off bolts at high-speed. It's got the speed of a power tool, but is much, much safer on threads.

What's not? Even though Blue-Point is Snap-on's value range; the price is still steep. But you do get free next-day delivery via their online store.

Contact: store.snapon.com

Quality rating: ★★★★★

Value rating: ★★★★★



EDZ Innershell shirt, £50



Tester: Andy Downes

Time tested: 3 years/3000 miles

What's good? This super-thin inner liner goes with me almost everywhere, thanks to its tiny dimensions when rolled up, and minimal weight (90 grams), I barely notice it stashed at the bottom of a rucksack or dropped into a pannier. The material is wind and shower proof, breathable and has a comfy fleece-lined collar and the protection it offers has been a massive bonus on several occasions where I have been caught out by swiftly dropping temperatures during warmer months while wearing leathers, or when I've not layered enough during the winter and need extra warmth.

What's not? It may seem expensive, but it saved me from leaving a trackday early, when other riders got too cold to ride, so it's paid for itself.

Contact: www.edzlayering.com

Quality rating: ★★★★★

Value rating: ★★★★★

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