


## Knox Handroid £259.99

# You won't be paranoid in the Handroid



**Tested by Charlotte King for seven months**

The Knox Handroid MK5 gloves are probably the most futuristic looking gloves on the market. With their exoskeleton armour, they look and feel properly protective, but they are only Level 1. Knox say the skeletal framework provides additional abrasion and impact protection, and it certainly feels like it will.

You would think this rigid looking protective frame would make them feel restrictive and work against hand mobility, but you don't notice it, you are aware it is there, but it doesn't interfere at all; I still have a full range of movement.

The kangaroo and cow leather is supple, but I find the palm area bunches slightly under my hand when gripping the throttle, causing a minor soreness. The Boa closure system is easy to use and the large cuffs fit over every jacket I've worn so far. The additional Velcro wrist strap keeps them tightly in place.

The touchscreen fingertips work well and I found them to be quite hot in the hot summer recently and not warm enough for anything below about 15 degrees.

**MCN rating** ★★★★½
**www.planet-knox.com**

## Held Slade II £1084.95

# Crash testing like a dummy


No Dan, you are supposed to stand...



**Tested by Dan Sutherland for one year/3500 miles**

As you can see from the photos, this Held suit has had a tough old life. It might be little more than a year old, but I've worn it on trackdays, for weekend road rides, and more recently for a stunting feature that saw my body occasionally dragged along tarmac at around 40mph.

During early use, I ditched the standard back protector in favour of my Furygan X-Road Vest with D30 chest and back protection and have later moved onto the Held eVest Clip-in airbag, priced at £371.95 and powered by In&Motion technology.

Regardless of the protection method, this is an all-day comfortable set of leathers, with a gentle cut that allows you to walk around without hunching over uncomfortably.

It also meets the highest AAA benchmark for protection, with CE Level 2 armour at the shoulders, elbows, hips, and knees as standard – with the airbag helping to fill out more of the torso area for a more complete feeling when worn.

This vest has now been discontinued but remains available with some retailers, but you'll need to pay a £12 per month subscription to In&Motion for use. It also restricts airflow to the body and leaves me with an incredibly sweaty back when used at high speed in the summer.

1 year ON TEST

On the bike, the generous accordion stretch panels in the knees, back, and arm area on the suit allow you to move around without restriction and an internal chest pocket is big enough for a mobile phone and your bank card – or a keyless fob if you have one.

For my latest stunt, which involved attempting to ski behind a motorcycle on titanium shoes (full video on our YouTube channel) I opted to switch back to the suit's standard back protector.

What followed were four failed jumps and drags along the tarmac at around 40mph – resulting in some scuffing around the bum and leg area, but no holes or frayed stitching, with plenty of strength left in the suit to use it again. Some of the external ridges on one of the accordion panels were breached, but the structural integrity remains. I've since done two track experiences with no issues.

**MCN rating** ★★★★½
**www.shop.held.de**

## Alpinestars Monofuse Gore-Tex boots £239.99

# Still alive and kicking hard



**Tested by Michael Guy for four years/22,000 miles**

Designed for touring and everyday use I've certainly put these boots to the test over the last four years. Alpinestars claim they are light weight, comfortable, and most importantly waterproof. Made from leather, which has worn exceptionally well, and with an integrated Gore-Tex membrane, they have kept me dry despite some long wet rides where other parts of my kit have failed.

Normally, most kit works well for the first few months, but the qualities start to deteriorate, especially waterproofness, as time goes by. But not these as despite tens of thousands of miles they continue to keep my feet dry.

They are also a good compromise of being flexible enough for walking while still providing a decent level of protection, although I do question the height of the boot as it's short – especially compared to other summer or off-road boots I wear.

Another key factor with this boot is that there is no zip. Instead you've got a stretchy top which is secured with strong Velcro and a neat ratchet-operated buckle just above the ankle. It took me a while to get used to this system of fastening, but it's arguably easier to use than a zip – and less likely to fail in the long run.




**MCN rating** ★★★★★
**www.alpinestars.com**




## Gold Top Short Bobber gloves £70

# Goldy looking gloves



**Tested by Tommy Begley for 1500 miles**

From the moment I slipped these gloves on, the fit was near perfect. The deerskin palm and silk-lined upper are criminally soft and supple from the off, and the half-perforations on the cowhide upper mean my hands stay comfortably cool in hot weather, yet they still offer enough warmth for cooler rides. Being as soft and stretchy as it is, the deerskin has worn a bit on the fingers however, and it's so thin and stretchy that I wonder how they'd fare in a crash. Nonetheless, they are CE Level 1 certified, and have quickly become my go-to glove.

**MCN rating** ★★★★½
**www.goldtop.co.uk**