

Raise your bike with confidence

ABBA Superbike Stand lets you work on your bike without the fear of a fairing-crunching accident



Top 3 details

1. Locate the pin one side, then slide the arm with the other pin into position on the other. Give it a few turns of the screw to add some tension, and lift away.

2. The rubber handle is on the end of a telescopic arm, which raises to give you lots of leverage, making it effortlessly easy to raise your machine onto the stand.

3. The construction is extremely robust, ensuring that you can leave your bike in the raised position for long periods of time without any concerns over its security.

ABBA Superbike Stand, £91.95 (stand) + £18.50 (fitting kit)



Tester: Richard Newland

Time tested: Four years

What's good? The first time I saw an ABBA stand in use was a real surprise. Not only was the action of lifting the bike smooth, effortless and single-handed, but the bike felt 100% secure once in the air – not a sensation you normally associate with conventional paddock stands.

The other big benefit when just using it as the equivalent of a rear stand, is that there's nothing to get in your way behind the pivot point. Everything from simply lubing your chain to dropping the rear wheel out, changing brakes or fitting a new chain is made immeasurably easier.

What really sells the ABBA to me, though, is the security. I know that I can pop the stand on, raise the bike, and will never suffer the ignominy of turning around for a spanner only to hear the bike slamming into the garage floor as the stand folds.

The construction appears to be durably strong. I've raised all sorts of bikes with it, and used it every week or two for the last four years without any obvious degradation.

What's not? It's not very universal. If, like me, you've got several different bikes, then you'll most likely need a couple of fitting kits. Equally, some of the fitting kits match a big range of bikes, so you might get away with just the one. And the fitting kits are no more expensive than buying different bobbins when using a paddock stand.

Contact: www.abbastands.co.uk

Quality rating: ★★★★★

Value rating: ★★★★★



Oxford Boss alarm disc lock, £74.99



Tester: Simon Patterson

Time tested: Five months

What's good? Bright, chunky and clearly marked as alarmed, this ticks all the boxes as a visible deterrent for thieves, and with its big 14mm shackle, it's not going to be removed in a hurry without hardcore tools. The built-in alarm is easy to activate – just line up the red arrows on the shackle and lock, or turn it around to deactivate. It comes with a free minder cable, spare key and code to order replacement keys.

What's not? The claimed 100dB alarm isn't very loud. It's also quite sensitive – I've had to leave it switched off recently as high winds were causing annoying false alarms.

Contact: www.oxprod.com

Quality rating: ★★★★★

Value rating: ★★★★★



Clarke Mechanic's chair, £26.99



Tester: Michael Neeves

Time used: 2013 racing season

What's good? One of the best racing accessories I own – so much so that when I asked someone to pack it in a van for a foreign track day, and they forgot, I sulked for four days. Unless you're lucky enough to have an expensive ramp, this is the way to work on your bike. You can wheel your way around your bike in comfort. It has an adjustable seat height, a built-in tray for tools and is sturdily built. It's comfortably survived a year in the paddock and being thrown in the back of a van.

What's not? It rolls away if the surface isn't flat. I once found it at the bottom of the paddock at Brands Hatch, despite my awning being parked up the top!

Contact: www.clarkeinternational.com

Quality rating: ★★★★★

Value rating: ★★★★★



Alpinestars Roving backpack, £74.99



Tester: Tony Hoare

Time tested: 2000 miles/four months

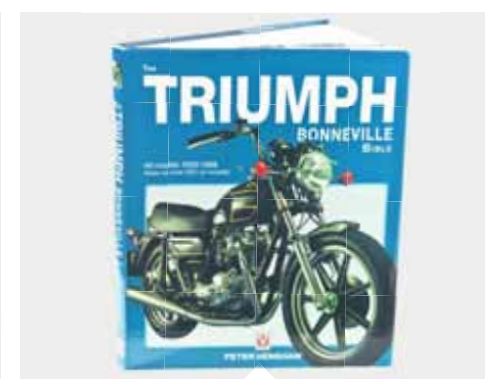
What's good? It's compact enough to cause no interference while riding, yet just about big enough for the essentials on the daily commute. It's tough, has removable waist and shoulder straps for extra bracing and the back padding is comfortable, with a section to allow airflow to keep me cool.

What's not? The shoulder restraining strap, which is useful for stopping windflow pulling the main carrying straps apart while riding, comes up too high – it might be better for smaller riders. The price is also quite saucy for a small rucksack.

Contact: www.alpinestars.com

Quality rating: ★★★★★

Value rating: ★★★★★



The Triumph Bonneville Bible, £35



Tester: Phil West

Time tested: Three months

What's good? Written by MCN contributor Peter Henshaw, it's packed with interesting archive material that's well organised and broken up into lots of inviting bits and pieces (rather than one long, droning section of text). It's concisely and authoritatively written, too. The medium format, 162-page colour specification isn't quite 'art book' but is OK and the picture use generous and interesting. Probably the only (Meriden) Bonneville book you'll ever need.

What's not? Although the content's good, the layout and design lacks the class and quality you can find elsewhere. I could happily live with that in a £14.95 book but this is £35.

Contact: www.veloce.co.uk

Quality rating: ★★★★★

Value rating: ★★★★★