

'I must give credit to my new flexible friend'

Textile jacket and trousers have a lot to offer in all weathers

Furygan Titan jacket, £269.99 and Duke pants, £199.99

Tester: Adam Child

Time tested: 12 months/15,000miles

What's good? Finally I've found year-round kit which keeps me warm and safe, but also looks good and doesn't limit movement. I was getting tired of wearing all-weather kit which made it nearly impossible to move, made me look like I was wearing a sack, and was heavy to wear off the bike. This Furygan gear is a revelation, as it's much lighter and more flexible than my previous winter kit. I can now move around freely on the bike and it's relatively light off the bike. Personally, I think it looks good too. It fits in all the right places, feels snug, doesn't flap around in the wind and is almost... well, sporty. The jacket has CE Level 2 protection on the elbows and shoulder, even a Level 2 back protector. The trousers have added protection on the knees and hips. Its light weight means I can wear it in summer too and the jacket has small vents to allow a lovely air flow. Then, in winter, it keeps the cold out and is waterproof, up to a point. There are five pockets, two on the outside and three on the inside, and an additional pocket on the pants. The pants have a zippable flap at the ankle/shin, which makes it easy to get them off and on.

What's not? It's not 100% waterproof as it absorbs the water rather than repelling it. This is fine for a while in heavy rain, but after around three hours (depending on the bike and conditions) it starts to seep through a little, more so on the jacket than the trousers, but only slightly. The external pockets aren't 100% waterproof either. Also once the temperatures drop into the minus figures you have to start adding additional thermal layers.

Contact: www.nevis.uk.com

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



DETAILS

1. Climate control
Zip-open vents in the jacket add versatility for year-round use.

2. Practicality
There are plenty of pockets both inside and out. The outer pockets do get damp in prolonged downpours.



QUICK BUYING ADVICE TEXTILES

1 Staying dry
Textile kit uses water-repellent coating on the outer and a breathable waterproof membrane inside. Keep your kit clean and use a water-repellence spray on the outer shell to keep it resisting water.

2 Extra layer
Consider a cheap set of waterproofs over the top. Sounds odd, but if you're riding a long way in heavy rain, a waterproof oversuit will beef up your defences against rain and give you another layer of wind protection.

3 Keep breathing
A cheap liner will usually not breathe as well as a more expensive one, like Gore-Tex. If you start sweating, the layer of moisture will cause you to chill on a winter ride.

4 Base layers
Think about breathability in what you wear underneath your riding kit. Dedicated base layers and mid-layers will wick sweat away, while a cotton T-shirt will absorb the moisture and make you feel cold.

5 Make sure it all fits and seals
Getting a good seal around the neck, waist and cuffs is vital to staying warm and dry. Use a good neckwarmer or balaclava, look for jackets and trousers that zip together to keep out draughts and will let you fit gloves inside or outside of the cuff, depending on your preference.



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Alpinestars Apex Drystar gloves, £80



Tester: Emma Franklin

Time tested: Four years/9000 miles

What's good? These leather and textile gloves are like heaven for hands – the inner lining is made from thermal velour and is wonderfully cosy. The goat skin palm, PU knuckle protectors and Velcro wrist strap give added security that you don't usually get in a touring-style glove. Meanwhile the integral Drystar lining is still working brilliantly. They're perfect for commuting in spring and autumn.

What's not? While these gloves are incredibly comfy and secure, they're not particularly warm. Anything less than 10°C and your pinkies will start turning blue.

Contact: www.alpinestars.com

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



SDoc100 Gel Total Cleaner, £13



Tester: Richard Newland

Time tested: Four years

What's good? However dirty your bike has got – and at this time of year a week's commuting means mine will be utterly filthy – all you have to do is spray a decent covering of this wonder-gel over your bike, let it soak in, give it a quick agitation with a soft brush. Hose off, chamois dry: Job done. It even shifts chain lube splatter, while remaining pH neutral and containing a corrosion inhibitor, too.

What's not? I tend to only get three complete bike washes per bottle, and it's not cheap – but it works so well that I always make it my first choice.

Contact: www.motohaus.com

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



Alpinestars Tech10, £420



Tester: Michael Guy

Time tested: Two years/2000 miles

What's good? What Alpinestars don't know about making motorcycle boots isn't worth knowing. Tech 10s are their top-spec motocross boots but are also worn by enduro riders and Dakar Rally competitors. Three buckles ensure a snug fit and make them relatively quick and easy to get on and your foot sits inside an armoured inner boot, which makes them comfortable to wear for long periods of time while offering good protection.

What's not? This is a premium product and they come with a premium price tag.

Contact: www.alpinestars.com

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