

Level 2KP for under £80

LS2 Swift £79.99

Big performers, sensible price



Tested by Dan Sutherland for 2000 miles

Genuine great value is hard to come by these days, but I think I might've found it with these LS2 Swift gloves.

Made from a mixture of full-grain cowhide, full-grain goatskin, and Super Fabric, they feature a visor wipe, a long enough cuff to slip over the end of your leathers, hard knuckle protection, fused outer fingers, and a double Velcro adjustment on each wrist – all for just £79.99.

Not only this, but they provide all of that whilst also achieving the highest 2KP safety standard – something that a large number of gloves costing more than double this asking price fail to achieve.

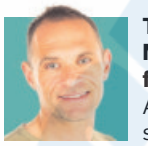
I've been mainly wearing them on the road in dry summery conditions between 20 and 30-degrees, but I've been pleased with them in every scenario. They're comfortable, feel sturdy, and the visor wipe has been mighty useful in the occasional summertime drizzle. For the money they are exceptionally good, but they aren't perfect.

In the hottest conditions, I would like a little more ventilation to stop my hands becoming overly sweaty, and some of the outer material on the fingertips has started to fray noticeably. Finally, although there's a visor wipe, there's no waterproofing – but then you can't have everything at this price point.

MCN rating ★★★★★
www.ls2helmets.com

MCT Suspension upgrade £762

Plush and controlled



Tested by Michael Neeves for 14 months

All road bike suspension is a compromise. First and foremost, it's built to a price to stop your bike from costing too much and spring rates are chosen to suit the weight of the average rider (plus, often a pillion too) – it's a credit to the bike manufacturers and their testers how good they can actually make it. But improvements to ride quality, agility, feel, stability, grip and everything in between can be huge when you fit good aftermarket suspension.

It's a benefit for the road, track or dirt. Even a £38,995 Ducati Panigale V4 R's standard suspension isn't as good as it could be, or else Bulega would be using it on his bike.

Fitting a new shock and fork cartridge kit can cost thousands, but there is a way to upgrade stock suspension to a high standard without breaking the bank. Early last year I took my GSX-R750 to Darren Wnukoski at MCT Suspension near Stowmarket, who removed, stripped and revalved its forks and rear shock, replaced the dirty, cavitated old oil and measured the spring rates (£680). He left the rear spring alone as it's quite stiff anyway, but fitted softer fork springs (£82) to suit the combination of road riding and trackdays I do. He set the rider sag with preload and gave me a base setting for rebound and (high/low) compression damping. Prices vary depending on the work involved and are less if you supply the forks and shock by themselves.



The ride is transformed for far less than a full aftermarket affair

In standard trim, my 750 handled beautifully, but the upgrade has added a layer of plushness and control. It's more comfortable over road bumps and with softer fork springs there's a lot more feel for what the front tyre is doing. I've also taken my 750 around Spa Francorchamps and Cadwell, where it was so well balanced I didn't feel the need to touch any of the suspension adjusters.

Aftermarket suspension and fork kits from the premium brands use far better-quality components than the mass-produced Suzuki stuff. That's where your money goes and why they feel so special. My forks and shock are missing some of that shine, but thanks to MCT they get really close and are far more affordable.

MCT rating ★★★★★
www.mctsuspension.uk

Richa Oberon WP £169.99

Rain? Bring it!



Tested by Adam Oldfield for 2000+ miles

If you want a touring boot that simply gets on with it, the Richa Oberon WP is a proper no-fuss workhorse.

First impressions are reassuring: solid leather construction that feels ready for a biblical spring downpour and delivers. After a winter and spring of soaked miles, I trust their waterproofing more than I trust most weather forecasts.

They start slightly snug but give them a few solid hours and the Ortholite insoles mould to your feet. It's not instant slipper comfort; it's "comfortable once worn in" and worth the wait. Once broken in, they're warm yet breathable, ideal for cold mornings without turning your socks tropical.

Protection is serious: CE-certified with D3O ankle reinforcement, plus excellent grip on slick petrol station forecourts. The zips on each side make getting them on and off effortless, and the slim upper tucks neatly under your trousers.

One caveat: on my Harley-Davidson Sportster S, the gear shifter sits just beyond the protective patch, rubbing the aniline leather and causing scuffs. Try them on your bike first.

They're not flashy, but for wet-weather performance and dependable protection, these boots never fail to deliver.

MCN rating ★★★★★
www.nevis.uk.com





REV'IT! Quantum 3 Gloves £169.99

Like Baby Bear's porridge



Tested by Tom Willard for 2500 miles

In the sweltering heat the 1KP-rated Quantum 3 gloves have been tremendously breathable for a full-length sport-style choice, more so than any full-race counterpart.

They've made me question the desire for anything more robust as a sports glove used on the road. The ultra-secure wrist closure is easy to use, it's armoured whilst also integrating a palm slider and air-flowing stretch panels in between the fingers, which offer a noticeable cooling effect when you are on the move.

They are a Goldilocks combination of quality, comfort, ventilation, style, tactile feel, and all without being priced to the moon. Sporty protection served just right.

MCN rating ★★★★★
www.revitsport.com