



Great feel and subtle looks

Tetty's levels of perforation

Roadskin Summer gloves £59.99

3500 miles ON TEST

## Grab hold of summer with both hands



**Tested by Richard Newland for three months**

When the mercury rises, a good 'shorty' summer glove is an absolute must. While there's an obvious reduction in protection compared to a full-length glove, the trade-off is improved comfort and airflow on sweaty summer rides.

These aptly named 'Summer' gloves from Roadskin fit the brief perfectly, and became a firm

favourite after only a few rides.

Made from goatskin, they feel superbly soft and malleable, and have the lived-in feel of years-old leather. The protection is Level 1KP, as you'd expect from a shorty, with knuckle and scaphoid protection integrated tastefully to ensure they don't look like race gloves that someone's cut the cuff off. They are touchscreen compatible, but I do find different results on various screens. They do feel like wonderfully thin and sensitive, so operating

switchgear and comms buttons is effortless.

I love the pre-aged/distressed look on the brown version (also available in black, sizes XS to XXL in both), which stops them looking like prosthetic hands, and the wrist closure is well provisioned and super-secure. Perforation helps with keeping cool, and so far there's been no wear of signs of use. They're my new summer go-to.

**MCN rating ★★★★★**  
[www.roadskin.co.uk](http://www.roadskin.co.uk)

Rukka Suki 2.0  
£184.99

## Don't fear wet days



**Tested by Saffron Wilson for 1000 miles**

I know a lot of summer gloves aren't waterproof, but that philosophy doesn't quite fit the bill for a summer ride in good ol' Blighty. In other words, it's probably going to rain at some point, particularly if you're off out for a few days trip rather than a quick blast to your nearest MCN Pit Stop. That's why I like the Sukis.

Made with Gore-Tex, these women's gloves are waterproof and windproof, yet breathable and lightweight so are fine in a quick shower.

I haven't used them in intense rain, so can't say how long they'd hold up, but they've been fine during all the summer showers I've faced.



12 months ON TEST

Rain forecast? All will be well

They are CE Level 1 approved, the touchscreen fingertips work well, and the addition of a visor wiper is another good demonstration of their wet-weather capabilities.

Yes, on the more sweltering days they can get a bit warm and clammy, and for some they might seem a bit

too chunky for a summer rideout.

But when you don't know whether the summer weather is going to hold out, they are a good all-round option and have come in useful on more than one occasion.

**MCN rating ★★★★★**  
[www.bikerheadz.co.uk](http://www.bikerheadz.co.uk)

Alpinestars SMX-1 Air V2 £89.99

## My go-to summer gear



**Tested by Michael Neeves for 30 months**

These shortie gloves are lightweight, comfortable and, being cuff-length, invite a cool breeze to run up my sleeves in hot weather. There are mesh sections and perforations around the fingers for extra ventilation and being relatively thin, give great feel for a bike's throttle and levers. Even vented leather racing gloves can feel sticky in the heat, but these are always a joy to slip on.

They're EN13594-2015 certified with Level 1 carbon fibre knuckle armour, which, together with their leather palms, synthetic suede sections and padded fingers, gives them a robust feel, although I haven't ever put them to the test.

I use them year-round on my scooter for big commutes and town work – even through the winter, thanks to its heated grips and hand muffs. I also wear them on test bikes



Faded but still performing after more than two years of riding

and long-termers for leisurely riding, but only when temperatures tip over the 20-degree mark.

Despite their breezy construction, they're built to last. I've been wearing them for over two years now, including on four big-mile European riding holidays, and this is my second review of them. The

30 months ON TEST

red Alpinestars logos on the fingers have become sun-bleached and the Velcro cuff fastenings have lost some of their strength, but they're still in perfect condition. All the stitching is

intact, the textile portions aren't frayed and, while the leather sections are nicely broken in, they're unblemished. That makes them excellent value at the full £89.99 retail price and even more of a bargain online, where you can find them with at least a tenner off.

**MCN rating ★★★★★**  
[www.alpinestars.com](http://www.alpinestars.com)

Alpinestars SP X 3 gloves £74.99

## Connection over protection?



**Tested by Joseph Wright for six months**

These strike an excellent balance between feel, comfort and basic protection. The stretchy upper and synthetic leather palm provide flexibility, grip and breathability, while plastic reinforcements on the knuckles, fingers and palm add reassurance. Sizing is generous (riders wanting a snug fit should size down). After 2000 miles they have aged well and remain a regular choice for commuting and short rides. Protection is Level 1KP, but comfort and usability are standout.

**MCN rating ★★★★★**  
[www.alpinestars.com](http://www.alpinestars.com)

Six months ON TEST



Knox Orsa OR4  
£119.99

## Light, strong, well made



**Tested by Steve Herbert-Mattick for 3000 miles**

Fully synthetic fourth-gen Orsa are vegan-friendly, CE Level 1KP, lightweight with great flex and feel. I first reviewed these last year having only done a handful of miles but almost a year later and having just done a 1500-mile tour in a heatwave I'm even more convinced of their quality. Touchscreen fingertips still work perfectly, BOA closure is always secure.

**MCN rating ★★★★★**  
[www.planetknox.com](http://www.planetknox.com)

12 months ON TEST