



Top marks all round for TCX



TCX RT Race Pro boots £319

6 months
ON TEST

'Simply superb in every single way'



Tested by Nye Davis for six months

TCX's RT Race Pro boots have been around for some years now, but they're every bit as relevant today, pulling off the near-impossible trifecta of strong support, all-day comfort, and excellent peg feel.

This year I've been glad to slip into the RTs for the odd road tootle, several track spins, and even a

couple of (slow-speed) tumbles – and in every scenario they've been rock-solid companions.

Despite the racy appearance, you can (and I have) kept them on all day. They're genuinely comfortable straight out of the box. The lining is as plush as lining comes, the insole has plenty of cushioning, and yet there's no compromise on protection – with TCX deploying dual-density foam and a flex-control outer

element to keep your lower limbs suitably unbroken – which I have no doubts about their ability to achieve.

They're also packed with neat touches. The zip-and-ratchet closure works flawlessly, the toe sliders are easily replaced, and the inner calf panel gets a soft suede finish that gives superb grip with little chance of marking your pride and joy.

MCN rating ★★★★☆

www.tcxboots.com

AlcoSense Excel Fuel Cell Breathalyzer review £99.99

'Remove the guesswork'

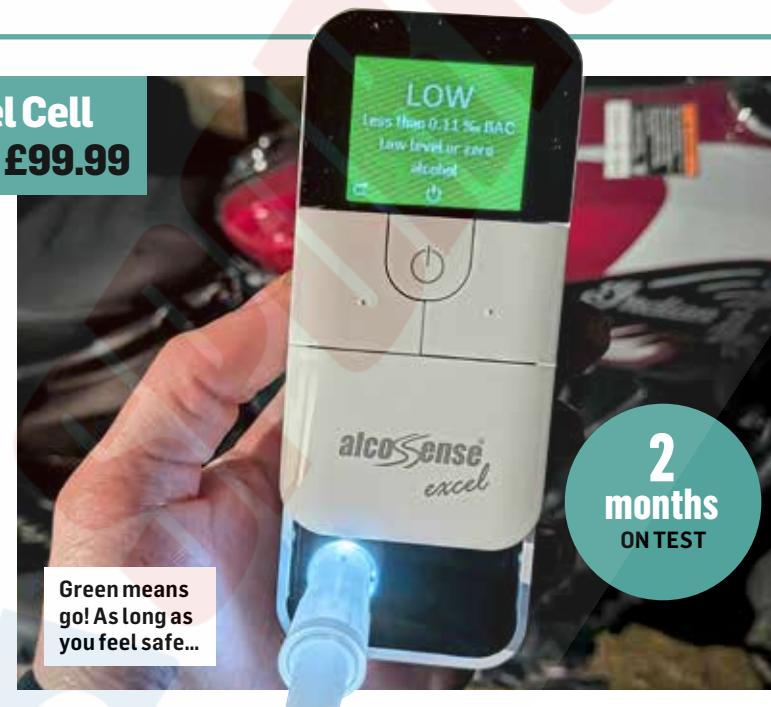


Tested by Ben Clarke for two months

I've always operated on the assumption that if I still feel ropey the morning after, I shouldn't ride. And even then, because of various horror stories I've heard over the years, I feel a twinge of panic every time I pass a police car if I've had a drink in the past 24 hours.

This incredibly simple little machine uses the same sensor as the police (but smaller) to take the guess work out of the equation. You slide the unit open like one of those natty phones from the Matrix franchise, push a plastic blow tube into the hole at the base and puff until it tells you to stop.

Readings are tailored to the limit you set and give a number (in mg/L)



2 months
ON TEST

Green means go! As long as you feel safe...

and the screen lights up red (over), amber (alcohol present but under limit), or green (low or no alcohol detected) to make things even simpler.

I used the Excel the morning after my 40th birthday party and blew an

amber at 8.30 the following morning and was back to green by 10am, which tallied with how I felt. If I blew green but still felt ill, I wouldn't ride, but at least I'd know I could set off as soon as I felt right.

MCN rating ★★★★☆

www.alcosense.co.uk

Knox Colton ladies jeans £189.99

'The perfect flattering fit'



Tested by Charlotte King for four months

The fit of these jeans is the most standout thing for me. I went for the XS as I usually wear a dress size 8 and they fit me perfectly. They are a skinny fit and are very flattering, thanks to the stretch in the denim, and for once they are a snug enough fit at the waist that I don't require a belt with them; there's no lower back gape at all. The short leg option is perfect for me and my little 26.5in inside leg, and they hit me at exactly the right point on my ankle. The high waist cut is comforting, so there's no spill over and you don't get that gap at the back between your jacket and trousers, even without a connection zip. I have happily worn these jeans all day and have had several comments from fellow riders on how great they look. The nice snug ankle fit is perfect for when you put on a pair of casual boots, as there is no stuffing required to gain a nice neat and comfortable look.

They have external zippers for when you want to remove the armour from the knees, which is handy when you arrive at the office as you can easily whip out the inserts so they look and feel like regular jeans; except it's not quite that easy

2400 miles
ON TEST



AA rated gear and the fit is spot on

because the zip toggles are so tiny that it is quite a faff to do as they are tricky to grip – and the zips don't run as cleanly as I would like.

They pack CE AA certification for safety; yes there are AA jeans available these days, but personally I am happy to sacrifice that extra A for the exceptional comfort and fit these jeans offer.

The Knox Micro-Lock armour is CE Level 1 at both the knee and hip. Level 2 would obviously be preferable, but the quality of these jeans has been excellent so far, with all belt loops holding up to the strain of the pull and wiggle that most ladies will be familiar with when you get a great-fitting pair of jeans.

Overall, they jeans have become my absolute favourites this year.

MCN rating ★★★★☆

www.planet-knox.com

Hassle-free basic clean for your bike



5 months
ON TEST

MotoClean Gel Bike Wash £14.99 (1000ml)

'Planet-friendly clean'



Tested by Dan Sutherland for five months

This biodegradable formula works by being sprayed onto a freshly rinsed bike. I used it across the summer months and into the early part of autumn – keeping my Yamaha R9 long-term test bike impressively clean after daily usage.

After deployment, I agitated the

cleaner with a brush/sponge to form a yellowy foam and left it for five minutes while I made a cuppa.

Then it was a case of rinsing off. This worked for the most part, but in areas exposed to higher amounts of dirt, including chain fling on the rear wheel, I often needed a second application or stronger cleaning agent to do the job.

MCN rating ★★★★☆

www.motoclean.co.uk