



Durable enough for the desert, as is the jacket

10 months ON TEST

Scott X-Plore jacket (£200) and pants (£180)

'Enduro-tough coveralls'



Tested by Chris Newbigging for 10 months

Fit, comfort and freedom of movement in this MX/enduro combo have been spot-on anywhere from near-freezing Welsh hillsides to the heat of the desert. They're admittedly not a highly technical garment (the main protection is achieved with separate armour underneath), but they are reasonably priced and the polyester

construction has shrugged off a few 'ambition outweighs talent' moments, including losing the front at 50mph in Morocco.

I chose the lighter grey option (plain black is available too), and while they are slightly stained by the various kinds of mud and dust they've encountered, they've kept their appearance well over almost a year of testing off-road machinery around the world with nothing more than a cool wash afterwards.

They aren't waterproof, but resist light drizzle. Zip-off sleeves and closable vents allow you to cool off on warmer days, there's a rear pocket for stashing whatever you want to hand, and there are ports in the jacket to feed a hydration pack through. The zips and fasteners never snag up. I've been nothing but pleased with the kit. There's a matching jersey for £60.

MCN rating ★★★★★
www.scott-sports.com

Leatt Moto9.5 Carbon with 6.5 Iriz goggles £636



Just 1200g in size small... but weighs more with mud splatters



Tested by Michael Guy for two months

Finding the right helmet is no easy task and making the correct or incorrect choice has the potential to impact your entire riding experience. Over the years I've become a bit of a creature of habit especially when it comes to my off-road helmet. I've tried plenty but I've always gone back to my Arai MX-V.

But when the opportunity came up to test the latest Leatt Moto9.5 Carbon I was more than a little bit tempted.

Priced at £636 which includes the 6.5 Iriz goggles and carry case it's a top end helmet in terms of price, but it's also seriously loaded in terms of spec and features.

The first thing you notice about the helmet is the weight... or lack of it. Being carbon it actually takes you by surprise the moment you pick it up. I wear size small which weighs in at just 1200g – helped by the fact that there are three different shell sizes rather than just one shell with more or less internal padding to give the correct size.

Putting it on your head is a revelation, off-road helmets rarely

feel as plush as their road counterparts but the Leatt is an exception. From the materials used to the fit, it feels premium. It's helped by Leatt's Pro Elastic liner, which they claim shapes to your head, plus the liner is breathable, moisture wicking, anti-odour and washable.

2 months ON TEST

Ventilation is another area that Leatt have taken seriously, and in addition to the chin vents you get on most off-road helmets there is a large vent that goes across your forehead to aid cooling, even at low speeds.

In terms of safety features, it's class-leading with brain injury reduction technology in the form of 360° turbine technology which Leatt claim 'helps reduce peak brain acceleration at impacts speeds associated with concussion'.

I'm yet to crash in the helmet, but I've definitely used it in anger on the new Triumph enduro bike launch in Spain and it left me seriously impressed. Comfortable, light and well built, it felt like I'd been wearing it for years.

MCN rating ★★★★★
www.Moto.leatt.uk

Clarke Ranger 8/25 2hp £131.98

'Good under pressure'



Tested by Gareth Evans for three years

I've got to know this compressor intimately. The main thing it's been helpful for is inflating tyres using the attachment in the £38.39 five-piece air tool kit. It does this job very well with one caveat: the gauge on the attachment is unreliable and only really suitable for a 'ballpark' go at hitting the right PSI. At times I've found it to be over 5PSI out compared with my calibrated gauge, but more annoyingly, it isn't consistent. I've taken to over-filling tyres and then bringing them down with my more accurate gauge.

The compressor is much more useful when rebuilding carburettors, for example, where accuracy is less



Not accurate but very useful

3 years ON TEST

important than simply being able to blow a steady stream of very high pressure air to clear fuel circuits of any debris that may stop play. It's been fantastic for painting, too, the gravity-fed attachment having a decently wide spray pattern. It's remarkably noisy, though, rated at

96dB, so I don't like to use it late at night or early in the morning.

I wish the power cable was a bit longer, but the handle means this 25kg beast is easy to wheel around the garage.

MCN rating ★★★★★
www.machinemart.co.uk

Alpinestars Mid-Layer £79

'Stretchy and fleecy'



Tested by Michael Neeves for two years

This is one of those pieces of bike kit I like so much, people must get fed up with seeing me in it. A lightweight zip-up mid-layer jacket like this is so practical to wear both casually and to slide underneath a bike jacket for extra warmth. It's made from stretch fabric for comfort, is fleece lined for extra coziness, has decent size pockets and handy thumb loops. Even after almost constant use over the past couple of years, there are no signs of wear and tear other than some areas of the camo print, which is starting to discolour.

MCN rating ★★★★★
www.alpinestars.com



2 years ON TEST

He's wearing it again...