

TRIED & TESTED

MCN STAFF RATE THEIR RIDING KIT

★★★★★

They warm up fast with great grip and feel

SIX MONTHS

Metzeler Sportec M9 RR tyres, from £240 per pair

'The perfect marriage of a sports and touring tyre'

Tested by Richard Newland for six months, 850 miles



These new M9 RRs have made a huge impact on the manners of my 1998 VFR800F (120/70 R17 and 180/55 R17). The sporty profile has sharpened the steering and the outright grip, confidence and feedback is superb. I use my VFR primarily as a workhorse, but I've taken it for a few more spirited rides, too – and it feels so much more direct and planted than it did on the previous Bridgestone T30s (themselves a very good tyre). In all instances the M9 RRs have really impressed. Warm-up feels near-instant with total confidence even in the wet from cold, and once they are up to full temperature you get that reassuring sense of the tyre supporting you as

you push it into the tarmac – rather than it simply gliding over the surface. I don't cane the VFR on the road, but deliberately trying to provoke the rear out of corners while still carrying lean delivers nothing but drive and I've braked overly hard in the wet to see how they behave and got nothing but predictable and solid grip. They have taken ten years off the VFR's feel.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.metzeler.com

PROS & CONS

- + Superb warm-up and handling, wet and dry
- Honestly can't think of a single complaint



VFR feels ten years younger on its new Metzeler



Givi UT802 rucksack £98

'Spacious and dependable too'

Tested by Ben Clarke for one year, 6000 miles



This rucksack has become a permanent fixture in my life. I've used it for thousands of bike miles and as a hold-all, hand luggage and overnight back on many trips.

First and foremost, it is utterly dependable in terms of waterproofing. I never even consider whether my electronic gear will be safe in it, however bad the weather is. It's also palatial. Its 35-litre capacity seems to be able to swallow up whatever you chuck in. Plus, you can use the air vent system to pack everything down once you've closed it up. The straps are comfy and easily adjustable and the one around the waist lets you get the weight off your shoulders, too. I wish it had an external pocket as it can be annoying having to open the main compartment every time you need something, but that's the only improvement I'd suggest.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.givi.co.uk

6000 MILES

Dango Designs GoPro gripper mount £49.99



Tested by Jordan Gibbons for 8 months

If you wear an adventure helmet and want to use a GoPro then this is the mount for you. It's basically a pair of rubberised sprung jaws that are capable of grabbing onto the chin portion of virtually any helmet, giving you a first person view. It can hold the camera in landscape or portrait, so you've got plenty of options. There's a safety lanyard too in case you worried about it bouncing off after a fall but it's shown zero signs of breaking free.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.ultimateaddons.com