



**Alpinestars
Valparaiso v3
Drystar £399.99**



Tested by Michael Neeves for 10 months, 2500 miles

Adventure jackets always seem to look better on other people. While theirs appear snug and nicely fitted, mine always feel clumpy and unwieldy. Maybe I'm so used to wearing jeans, jackets and leathers, but this one is different and the first I've felt really comfortable in. It's lightweight and roomy, so you don't feel bound-up like Houdini, and fits perfectly. It has a multitude of pockets, shoulder and elbow armour and a handy quick-release collar strap, but the backing on one of the Velcro wrist straps has come away. With its thermal liner fitted it's kept me warm, on freezing, day-long MCN250 tests and is showerproof, but prolonged, torrential rain will eventually find its way in, as it does on every adventure jacket I've tried and seen. You can also strip out the inner layers and open the vents for summer riding.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.alpinestars.com



S100 Leather Balm £11.99

Tested by Ben Clarke
Applying this balm is a rewarding and therapeutic process. You apply small dabs, little by little and your tired gear is brought back to life before your very eyes; it's a strangely hypnotic and addictive process (or maybe that's just me). The leather looks great, feels softer and is more supple after application and it stays that way, making it more comfortable to wear and easier to clean. It smells really good, too.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.motohaus.com

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