

**TRIED & TESTED**  
 MCN STAFF RATE THEIR RIDING KIT  
 ★★★★★

Biking jeans that look like riding gear

**3 months ON TEST**



Zippable thigh vents allow a bit of breathability



**Trilobite Parado Monolayer women's jeans £219.99**

# 'Unashamedly technical looks'



**Tested by Emma Franklin for three months / 1500 miles**

Bucking the trend for biking jeans, the AAA-rated Trilobite Parado Monolayer are unashamedly technical, forgoing that under-the-radar casual look with styling that screams 'I arrived by bike'.

Made from a single layer of Trilobite's proprietary Tri-Stretcher Pro 5.0 denim, a blend of Aramid, nylon, polyester, cotton and Lycra, the firm claim protective performance that's on a par with leather while also offering the comfort levels of a casual jean. This skin protection system is backed up with a full salvo of break-bump-and-bruise-preventing Level 2 soft armour at the knees and hips, which is impressively thin and made by an Italian firm called Flying

Bats (who incidentally have a logo suspiciously similar to a certain Bolognese bike brand's).

As someone who rarely sits around all day in biking jeans, I like the technical styling. Psychologically, it instils a greater sense of reassurance than I'd get from something that looks like it's fallen from the pages of a fashion mag. With heavy duty double-stitched seams being a feature of the Parados, these are jeans that feel engineered rather than designed – and in my book, that's a good thing when it comes to safety.

The Tri-Stretcher fabric feels robust and high quality, and the single-layer construction means they're lightweight. I've been lucky enough to wear them while riding in Spain recently and was thankful for their lack of bulk – and also for their zippable thigh vents, which provide a

wisp of cooling air to your upper leg. Although, I do feel slightly squeamish about having such a chunky metal zip against a big, fleshy part of my leg and I can imagine having a YKK logo embossed into my thigh if I topple off.

Whilst the material itself is comfy and extensive use of abrasion-resistant stretch panelling around the seat certainly helps the Parados feel unrestrictive on the move, they could do with a comfort lining as I find some of the internal seams, especially around the seat and back of the knee, start to irritate after a few hours if I don't wear a base layer beneath.

One aspect that doesn't irritate at all is the armour. I've been more than happy to keep the hip protectors in place as I don't notice them at all when the jeans are on. Likewise, it's really easy to get the knee armour in the right position, thanks to a simple

Velcro height adjuster.

At £219.99 for single-layer AAA-rated jeans, the Parado offer good value, but enhancing this is the Trilobite 'Crash Program' which offers a replacement if your kit is damaged in a crash, provided it's shipped to their HQ for inspection. Keep your eyes peeled for which type of Parado you're purchasing, though, as there is also a slightly cheaper (and thicker) double-layer version, too.

**MCN rating ★★★★★**  
[www.trilobitemoto.cz](http://www.trilobitemoto.cz)

## PROS & CONS

- +** Feel reassuringly protective. Slim, flexi armour. AAA
- Seams can feel irritating if you don't have a base layer



High waistband is a must. Stretch panels allow plenty of movement



Technical styling with an AAA rating makes them feel very reassuring