



SHS Venture Heat Men's Heated Fleece Vest £120



Tester Adam Child
Time tested 6000miles/six months

What's good? If you can keep your core warm, you stay warm, it's that simple. This heated vest does just that. There's a small rechargeable battery back that sits inside the jacket that keeps the vest warm for up to eight hours. There is a robust, easy-to-use switch on the outside, which changes colour depending on which one of the three heat settings you've selected. Unlike some heated vests, it's simple and easy to use, even in winter gloves. As the switch changes in colour it's easy to make a visual check if the jacket is on or off. The vest uses a light rechargeable battery and you're not connected to the bike, therefore you're free to move around without an attaching cable. I used this daily all last winter, and didn't show any sign of wear even after extensive use.

What's not? The heated vest is designed for outdoor use, from walking the dog to snowboarding. This makes it versatile but you can't connect it to your bike's battery – you always have to use the rechargeable battery which sits in the inside pocket.

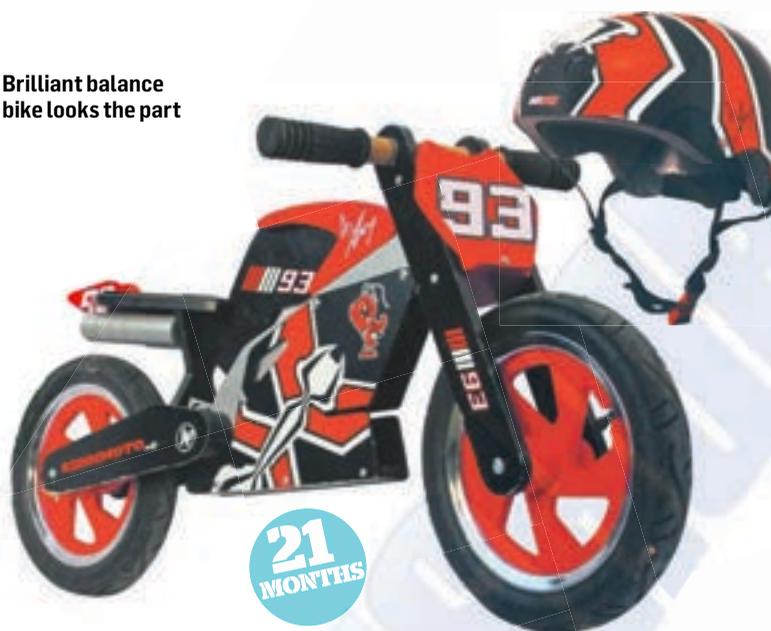
Contact www.shs-ltd.com

Quality ★★★★★ **Value** ★★★★★



SIX MONTHS

Brilliant balance bike looks the part



21 MONTHS

Kiddimoto Hero Balance Bike, Marc Marquez and Kiddimoto Marquez Helmet (£159.99, £39.99)



Tester Simon Relph's son Archie Relph (now aged four)

Time tested 21 months

What's good? My son got his Kiddimoto wooden balance bike when he was two-and-a-half-years-old and he took to it like a duck to water. There's no more bending over holding on to the back of a saddle trying to teach a small person to ride a bike. The Kiddimoto allows a two-year-old to just get on and ride almost immediately. It's amazing. The wooden balance bike arrives in kit form, but

can be easily put together. They are well made, aesthetically pleasing and use traditional pump-up tyres for a smooth ride. To keep Archie safe, I got him a matching Marc Marquez Kiddimoto Helmet. Since this fantastic introduction to two wheels, at only four years old he is now riding a mountain bike like a complete demon.

What's not? My son hardly ever wants to walk anywhere with me, as he always wants to have fun and ride his bike (you can't blame him really).

Contact www.kiddimoto.co.uk

Quality ★★★★★ **Value** ★★★★★

Forcefield Pro Vest X-V £124.99



Tester Liam Marsden
Time tested 600 miles/three months

What's good? I never ride without a back protector, and this protective vest has relegated my back protector to the cupboard. The vest is made from Forcefield's X-Vent material, which means it's breathable in warm conditions and doubles as a base layer. It's stretchy, too, which means it's a snug fit, so the back and chest armour never moves about. The back protector is approved to CE level two. Forcefield don't state whether the chest pad is certified, but it feels substantial without being overly bulky. The vest fits well and never gets in the way or rides up. The whole thing is machine washable.

What's not? The zip sometimes comes apart at the bottom after I've zipped it up, but it doesn't happen often and undoing the zip and doing it again sorts it.

Contact www.forcefieldbodyarmour.com

Quality ★★★★★

Value ★★★★★



600 MILES