



Gerbing Xtreme Ladies Heated Gloves £209.99

Say goodbye to frosty fingers



Tested by Saffron Wilson for six months

It's not very often that you get female-specific heated gloves, but Gerbing are leading the way with making this a reality. As I have long fingers, I've previously had to use gloves which gape a lot around the palm in order to get the length needed – but this pair are snug and comfortable even from the first wear, a feeling which is helped by the brushed liner and Thinsulate layer.

Despite their waterproof/breathable Hipora liner, they didn't stay as waterproof as I'd hoped when I got caught in a heavy storm. But they have proven fine in light showers, and they're breathable, which is good when the weather warms up mid-ride.

My only other niggle is that I'd prefer a chunkier wire going to the connectors as when you're covered in layers of bulky kit, you feel like you might rip them from the glove (this hasn't happened). Optional batteries are available (£119 extra), and the gloves have a lifetime warranty.

MCN rating ★★★★★
gerbing.co.uk



Macna Centre heated jacket £199.95

Hotter under the collar



Tested by Richard Newland for 12 months

Heated kit is a life-saver. It's not just about deflecting hypothermia – a cold core and chilly muscles equal slow movement, discomfort and fatigue. This Macna Centre jacket kept me functioning last winter, and has been keeping me warm through this one – and it's very nearly brilliant.

I have used it with a 7.4v battery pack, which you plug in and pop into its own pocket in the jacket, but I much prefer using it plugged into the bike's 12v supply. Using the battery means you can only hit a max of 24 watts of warming punch – with the 12v connection it'll hit 50 watts. And that's crucial, because the Centre rarely feels significantly warm once the ambient temperature is around 0°C.

While it feels necessary to be burning the watts on the highest setting in sub-zero temperatures (1 is the coolest, 4 is the max), and you don't feel like you're being particularly roasted – you also don't feel cold. It's an odd trick, likely helped by the foil lining that reflects and retains much of the heat being



A good-looking jacket that provides ample heat down to zero-degrees

generated. On sub-zero days when you're out all day, it's not warm enough – but it's good for short hops or days when it's not sub-zero.

There are also power leads at the cuffs so you can plug in a pair of Macna heated gloves. I regularly do, and the system works very well.

The four heat levels are selectable via the main power button on the right breast, and this is one aspect where the Macna is frustrating. If you're plugging into the bike, you need to then reach the power

button, which means undoing your jacket (probably gloveless), locating the button and pressing it to the desired level. If you want to change settings on the move, it's essentially impossible. There is an app that drives Macna's kit on your phone... but if your phone is tucked away in a pocket/pannier/rucksack, then it's no more use.

The stitching has also failed on one of the arms, meaning there's a gaping hole under the left pit.

I want to love this great jacket, but it does fall just short of brilliant.

MCN rating ★★★★★
www.macna.com

7000 miles ON TEST

Halvarssons Vinvallen £889.98

Year-round textile finery



Tested by Gareth Evans for nine months

I've really gelled with this new-for-2025 textile suit. I was told by the supplier, Bikerheadz, that the jacket (£489.99) would be 'among the most comfortable you have ever worn' and that's turned out to be a very accurate statement – I adore wearing it, with or without the warming Outlast removable liner that's been in for the past few months. Both have proven completely waterproof, having tackled some of the year's biggest storms, and their venting is such that they're suitable for a huge range of temperatures, but the high-quality, low-friction zips also mean they're easy to adjust on the move, should conditions change.



On the subject of zips, the one connecting jacket to trousers (£399.99) is pleasingly easy to use, which isn't always the case with these suits. I mentioned in a previous update that I was struggling to keep the cuffs of the trousers over shorter boots, but this ceases to be an issue

in winter when I wear longer, more suitable boots anyway.

And what of the AA safety rating, where they could be AAA? You don't see many with the top score, and I'd wager they'd be less comfortable.

MCN rating ★★★★★
halvarssonsmc.com

Oxford Air Seat – Adventure & Touring £64.99

Breathe new life into your saddle



Tested by Adam Oldfield for one year

The Oxford Air Seat Adventure & Touring edition has breathed new life into the tired, sagging saddle of my 2004 Triumph Tiger 955i – making it a fantastic stopgap, or even long-term solution, over pricey reupholstering.

It feels impressively tough; I've left it on through every season without issue, though after a torrential downpour it does need a bit of sunshine to fully dry out again. Thankfully, it's a breeze to fit or remove, so I often simply take it



Ready, seat, go: Oxford's air seat strapped in, comfort in an instant

off if heavy rain is looming. Getting the air pressure right takes some trial and error, but once dialled in for your personal mass, comfort is transformed, longer rides now feel effortless.

MCN rating ★★★★★
www.oxfordproducts.com

One Year ON TEST