

TRIED & TESTED

MCN STAFF RATE THEIR RIDING KIT

★★★★★

FIVE MONTHS

Oxford Beast £149.99 (and 1.5m chain £149.99)

'This thing is a Beast of epic proportions'

Tested by Richard Newland for five months



The lock itself weighs 3.6kg, boasts a 30mm hardened locking pin, measures 12.5cm by almost 9cm and would probably knock a brick out your wall if you threw it like a rugby ball. In addition, the 1.5m chain weighs another 12kg and uses 22mm thick links. All this macho metal and design cleverness conspire to gain the Diamond standard from Sold Secure – the highest ranking available. It's heavy to manhandle and there's no way you could conceive of using it as portable security, but considering most bikes are stolen from home, that's no bad thing. Its sheer size can be an issue: if you've got spoked wheels, you may not be able to get the chain through, and

even on some cast wheels it's tricky. You can use the lock as a disc lock – but the 30mm pin is too big to pass through most brake disc apertures. And if you want to use it with a ground anchor, you may need to buy the bespoke Oxford unit to have enough clearance (£99.99). It's an absolute mammoth, but if you can make it work for your needs, you'll have the best protection you can buy. **Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★** www.oxfordproducts.com

PROS & CONS

- + Diamond standard Sold Secure protection
- Home use only, too chunky for some bikes



The Beast can double as a very chunky disc lock



Vizibleed brake/clutch bleeding kit £5.99

'Got my rear brake sorted in no time'

Tested by Simon Brown for one brake bleed



Squeeze... squeeze... squeeze... hold... open... close... repeat. After the long winter lockdown the rear caliper on my Ducati had lost its bite so a pre-MoT brake bleed was in order. It's an easy and satisfying job you can do at home and a little gizmo like this makes it even more straightforward. Of course, you can just use a bit of clear aquarium style tubing and an old drinks bottle, but a dedicated device reduces the risk of spillage and at less than six quid it hardly breaks the bank. I got this one from my local Halfords while picking up a bottle of brake fluid. It's nothing more complicated than a clear tube which runs into a container. Stick a ring spanner around the bleed nipple then push the tube over the nipple itself and watch for bubbles as you pump fluid through – not forgetting to keep the reservoir topped up from that freshly opened bottle of brake fluid. One useful tip is to keep some paper towel to hand so you can deal swiftly with any drips of corrosive brake fluid.

Quality ★★★★★

Value ★★★★★

www.halfords.com

Muc-off Miracle Shine £24.99

Tested by Simon Relph for 10 months

I am always sceptical about things with the word 'miracle' in the name but I'm pleased to say I was wrong in this case. I dug out an old tank that had been sun-bleached and weathered over many years. I could see, as I rubbed the polish in using a cloth, that the paint was coming back to life. Then, after a light buff, the paint came up like new. It's a miracle!

Quality ★★★★★

Value ★★★★★

www.muc-off.com

