



Ugly Fish RS5228 sunglasses, £35



Tester: Andy Downes
Time tested: One year

What's good? These are good value sunglasses that fit tightly to my face, and were perfect when I used them in combination with an open-face helmet at the Sturgis Rally in America last year. Over three, long days riding in extremely high temperatures, these were ideal for stopping insects from hitting my eyes and keeping dirt out. They are also comfortable; the side stems are thin and smooth enough to slide into place beneath a helmet without causing discomfort. The lenses are medium impact-resistant polycarbonate with an anti-scratch and anti-mist coating.

What's not? Not a lot to report. It's hard to fault but they aren't polarised lenses, which may put off some people.

Contact: www.thekeycollection.co.uk

Quality rating: ★★★★★
Value rating: ★★★★★



TCX S-R1 Gore-Tex boots, £249.99



Tester: Richard Newland
Time tested: Four months/
400 wet miles

What's good? These TCX boots work. Even in really persistent heavy rain, they've not let in a single drop of water. I even resorted to the garden hose to give them a thorough pressurised soaking from all angles, but they remained utterly watertight. Water also beads off the full-grain leather upper really well, rather than soaking in and relying on a membrane to keep you dry. This means they also dry out pretty quickly.

What's not? There's no useful adjustment from the zip and Velcro closure. The sole is also oddly stiff, making me walk like I've strapped boards to my feet.

Contact: www.nevis.uk.com

Quality rating: ★★★★★
Value rating: ★★★★★

Action cam is small wonder

Ultra-small MyCro is proof that onboard cameras don't need to be complicated or expensive

MyCro onboard video camera, £100*



Tester: Liam Marsden
Time tested: Two weeks
*Price subject to exchange rate

What's good? The current market leader for onboard video cameras, GoPro, sells its top camera for close to £400. The little box you see here costs £100 – but the gap in price certainly isn't echoed by such a large gap in quality. And unlike some of the higher-end action cameras, this is simple to use. It has two buttons – one to turn it on and off and the other to start and stop recording. The video quality is surprisingly good for such a small, cheap camera. It's not quite up there with the best, but it's surprisingly good given the price – and it'll record video for up to an hour. It's smaller than a lot of other onboard cameras, which means it can be stuck in more places. Memory is taken care of via a MicroSD slot and there's a carry strap, mounting plate and USB charger included in the box. It comes with everything you need to get shooting straight away.

What's not? It looks and feels like it came from the local pound shop – the plastic casing flexes and can be pulled away at the corners. The sticky mount supplied with the camera isn't sticky enough, either. Most sticky mounts are well and truly on once you've put them there, but this came off way too easily and has now lost all its stick. The importer, former multiple world champion Phil Read, says he

is happy with the level of adhesion to a helmet, having tested it on a parade lap of the Isle of Man TT and reaching speeds of up to 160mph without losing the camera. Our example also came with German user instructions – hopefully this isn't always the case. The lack of an adjustable mount or plate thread to attach a mount to means it can only be mounted on horizontal surfaces, which are often lacking on a bike.

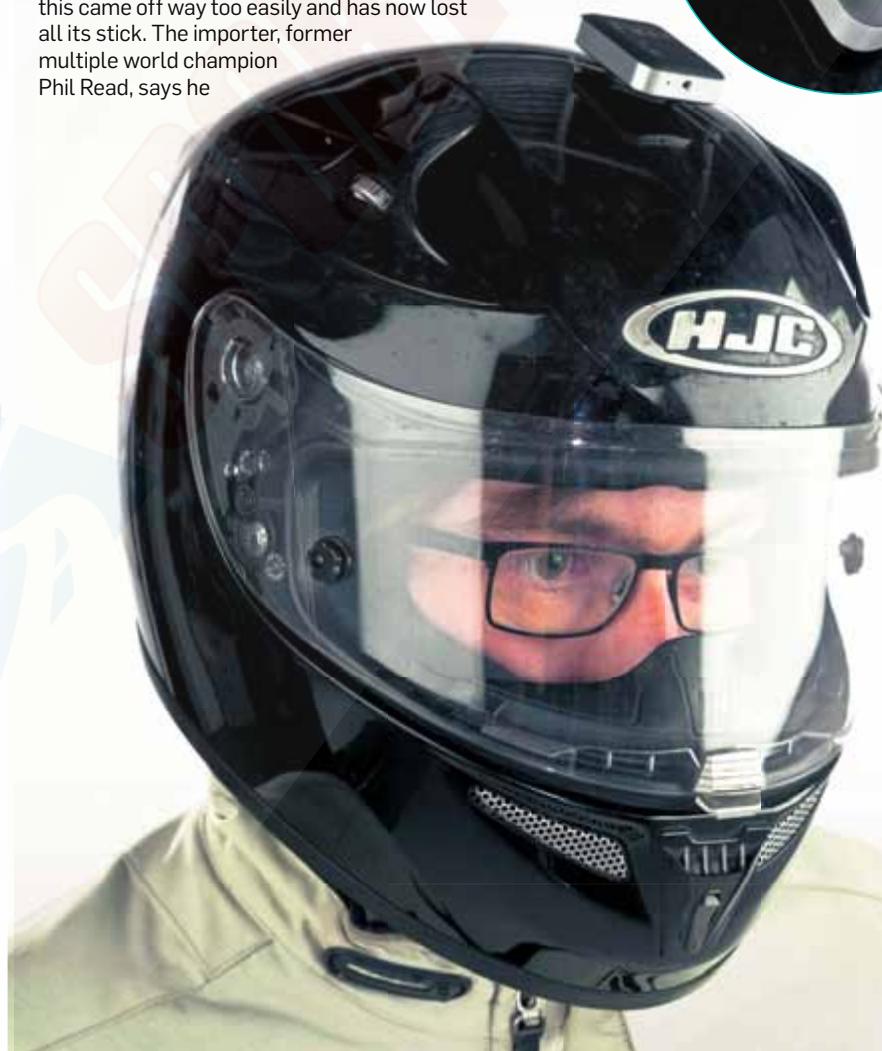
Contact: www.philread.org

Quality rating: ★★★★★

Value rating: ★★★★★

In details

1. Two buttons, one to turn on/off and the other to start/stop recording make the MyCro really easy to operate



Petronas Durance chain cleaner, £7.99



Tester: Tony Hoare
Time tested: One month/two
grubby chains

What's good? A chain that looked so dirty it might have needed replacing is now functioning smoothly and slicky thanks to a session with this chain cleaner. Another chain cleaner would probably have done the job too, but this new cleaner from Petronas impressed me for the ease with which it brought a 9000-mile chain up to a shine, with a little help from an old toothbrush for the especially tough bits.

What's not? This, like any chain cleaner, is more expensive than a big bottle of paraffin (£7 for four litres from B&Q), which will also do for routine chain cleaning. But paraffin can't match chain cleaner for convenience, or ability to tackle heavily soiled chains.

Contact: www.feridax.com

Quality rating: ★★★★★
Value rating: ★★★★★



Thor copper and hide faced hammer, size 1, £13.86



Tester: Ped Baker
Time tested: 12 years

What's good? This 830g soft-faced hammer has aided removal of countless stubborn swingarm bolts, bushes, axles and other parts for over a decade. The copper face is heavy enough to deliver a substantial blow but soft enough to distort instead of damaging the part you're hammering; it's an iron fist in a velvet glove. The Buffalo hide face is ideal for gently releasing alloy crankcase covers from the grip of sticky gaskets. Every workshop should have one. Thor has been manufacturing hammers and mallets in the UK since 1923 and produce a range of different types.

What's not? Nothing. Besides, who doesn't want a 'Thunder' hammer in their toolbox?

Contact: www.thorhammer.com

Quality rating: ★★★★★
Value rating: ★★★★★