Rebelhorn Hunter II £199.99

Timeless styling



Tested by Charlotte King for four months
The Hunter II is made from a lovely cow hide leather with a cotton lining, which makes for a soft and comfortable garment. It feels thin and not at all bulky, allowing you to move freely and forget that you're wearing a protective motorcycle jacket.

The fit is true to size and flattering, tailored just enough to give a great shape, with adjusters to let the bottom out for those with wider hips like myself. There are two zipped chest vents which allow air into the jacket in warmer weather, which does help keep you cool when temperatures climb.

The Level 2 CE armour at the elbow, shoulder and back are really supple and low profile so you don't feel restricted at all when riding and they don't really bother you when off the bike either. Surprisingly for a leather jacket, it's only AA rated.

At a smidge under £200, the Hunter II offers a lot for the money. Protection is good, it feels quality and looks great, so much so, I'll often wear it out as a casual leather jacket. It comes with a five-year warranty (if you register it) and I'd happily spend my own money on it.

MCN rating ★★★★★
www.rebelhorn.com



Merlin Icon Leather Jacket £399.99

A spring/ summer classic!



Tested by Robin Kirkley for three months / 650 miles
Merlin's Icon focuses on classic styling rather than race looks, combining a leather outer with integrated mesh panels for genuine warm-weather usability. As someone who normally wears textile kit, I found it comfortable and unintimidating from the first wear, with a relaxed cut that hangs naturally and good freedom of movement on the bike. The cuffs use a zip and stud closure, so fastening the studs and leaving the zip open channels air up the sleeves very effectively. It's AAA-certified with Level 1 D3O shoulder and elbow armour, but no back protector is included, which surprised me, so you'll need to budget for one. In temperatures up to 33°C, including stop-start traffic, I stayed relatively cool, as the mesh genuinely lets air move through. A removable sleeveless thermal liner is included for cooler days. At £399.99 it feels like strong value, and as a smart, well-ventilated leather option for spring and summer, it's an impressive package.

MCN rating ★★★★★
merlinbikegear.com



Alpinestars GP Plus R V4 Rideknit £629.99

Great but it's only AA-rated



Tested by Ben Clarke for three months/ 1300 miles
The GP Plus R V4 Rideknit sits at the performance end of Alpinestars' road range, aimed at sportsbike and aggressive naked riders. It uses 1.3mm race-grade leather, much of it perforated, with large panels of Rideknit stretch fabric along the inner arms and ribs to reduce bulk, provide airflow and boost flexibility. Straight out of the box, it's the most comfortable leather jacket I've worn. It genuinely fits like a glove, with effectively no break-in period and full freedom of movement from the first ride, and even in an aggressive riding position there's no sense of it fighting you. It's CE certified to EN17092-3:2020 AA, which at this price is disappointing as many rivals achieve AAA. It comes with Nucleon Flex Plus shoulder and GP Lite elbow armour, with pockets for optional back and chest protectors. On the road it feels far more substantial than its AA rating suggests, however, and I do feel confident riding in it. There's no thermal liner, so it's very much a summer jacket, but it copes superbly with heat; I wore it for over 1000 miles in baking French temperatures and the perforated leather and stretch panels allow pleasing airflow. Quality and styling are excellent, but the certification level relative to the price remains its one real weakness.

MCN rating ★★★★★
gb.alpinestars.com



Can't be beaten for looks and feel

3 months ON TEST

Texpeed Vintage Brando £84.99

Brando on a Budget



Tested by Adam Oldfield for five months/1500 miles
The Texpeed Brando jacket is thick, soft leather done right, tough enough to shrug off the road, supple enough to feel broken-in from day one. It's warmer than it looks, handles spring-to-autumn rides with ease, and, with a dab of Duck Wax, even a light shower won't spoil the show. The AAA-rating means it's not just posing for café stops either. Sure, heritage brands offer fancier finishes at four times the price. For classic biker swagger on a budget, this under-the-radar gem punches well above its weight.

MCN rating ★★★★★
www.texpeed.co.uk


5 months ON TEST



Rebelhorn Inferno £324.31

Fit for the fast lane



Tested by Joseph Wright for six months
The fluro yellow grabbed my attention, especially as so many brands have moved away from bold colours. Thankfully, it backs up the looks with an excellent fit. The mix of perforated leather and stretch panels is comfortable without feeling restrictive, while the top AAA CE rating adds extra peace of mind. The detachable windproof vest is genuinely useful on cooler rides, and the 360-degree waist zip makes it easy to pair with the matching trousers for trackdays.

MCN rating ★★★★★
rebelhorn.com

6 months ON TEST