

TRIED & TESTED

MCN STAFF RATE THEIR RIDING KIT

★★★★★

1200 miles ON TEST

Not cheap but the quality is right up there

Halvarssons Vinvallen textile suit £860

‘Bone dry and comfortable’



Tested by Gareth Evans for two months

I might have ‘only’ done 1200 miles in this suit, but in that time I’ve completed several 100+ mile days in the saddle and seen the bookends of the British summer weather, from blazing sunshine to torrential rain, so I’m in a good position to relay my first impressions.

The first thing I’d say is that the zip-connected jacket and trousers are seriously comfortable to wear for longer distances. My most ambitious so far is a 300-mile day and they shrugged that off with ease.

Getting caught in a storm is nobody’s idea of a good time, but it’s happened to me twice over recent weeks and I’m well versed in the locations of all the vents. Luckily the strong, smooth zips have large toggles so it’s easy to do them up at the roadside with gloves on.

You can operate the large main front vents on the jacket while riding, the air venting out of the back to keep you cool in the heat. There are magnets to hold the front vents open, but they’re not really strong enough to keep the flap secured for sportier riding.

I can also confirm they have been fully

waterproof. I rode for two hours in torrential rain and arrived home dry as a bone. When the vents are closed they don’t let any air through either, which bodes well for winter use.

The main drawback I can see is the AA-rating, which is typical of textile touring kit but obviously not as protective as leather. So for the ultimate in protection, you could wear a leather suit with waterproofs on top, but for touring that’s neither practical nor comfy. Comfort isn’t a factor in the CE rating of kit, but it should be considered, because you’re much safer riding in kit that doesn’t distract you. Considering the price of this suit compared to rivals such as Rukka, I think it’s a bit of a bargain given its high quality.

You do get Level 2 adjustable protectors on the shoulders and elbows, and the jacket is prepared for an airbag, plus it can take chest and back protection (available separately).

They have a three-year warranty, which is added peace of mind. This gear certainly doesn’t feel flimsy – there’s a sense of quality.

One thing I did find a little distracting was the trouser cuff, which kept riding up over my short touring boots and letting air in. Try as I might, I haven’t found a way of tightening the Velcro in a way that stops this happening, and I can see this might become quite annoying in winter when you want to keep the heat in.

MCN rating★★★★★
www.halvarssonsmc.com

PROS & CONS

+ Comfy, quality, versatile and very good value for money

– Leg cuff rides up over short boot, magnets could be stronger



The magnet to hold this vent open isn’t strong enough when you up the pace



Double zippers add useful versatility



There’s excellent venting on trousers too