



TRIED & TESTED
MCN STAFF RATE THEIR RIDING KIT
★★★★★

There's a whole lotta options in the box

LEDs to colour match your lid

12 months ON TEST

Sena 60S Intercom £339

Communication sensation

Tested by Justin Hayzelden for 9000 miles
An intercom can quickly become an indispensable piece of tech, piping through playlists that can brighten damp, dreary commutes or turn-by-turn directions to help you keep your eyes on the road. The Sena 60S has proved to be an excellent conduit in providing this, as well as allowing me to make and take calls without removing my lid, and to stay in touch with other riders on a ride out.

As a peer-to-peer intercom, it connects best with the QR code method. Each user has to have the app and a suitable headset, but once set up the connection is stable, and re-establishes as you go in and out of range – which is realistically line of sight. Bluetooth mesh connection

between other Sena devices is simple to do and improves range on a group ride, provided each user can see at least one other. The most I've tested it with is four, but Sena say their system should connect an unlimited number of riders. I've attempted to pair it with a Cardo Packtalk Neo, but that just seemed to be a one-way-street; although the Sena app could find the Cardo, there was no reciprocation.

The 60S has voice commands for basic controls, however the physical controls are tactile and prominent enough to be operated accurately, even with chunky winter gloves. The large jog dial does most of the work, and there are separate dedicated buttons for phone and intercom operation. Sound quality from the 41mm Harman Kardon speakers is particularly pleasing, and at 70mph I can comfortably listen to music on a

naked bike. Likewise, speech has clarity, and I've been told that the noise cancelling on calls is so effective that it sounds like I'm at home on hands-free, not on the A1.

Four different snap-on trims for the fascia and jog dial are included, and it has an LED strip along the side which can be programmed to glow in a variety of patterns and colours via the app. It may not be to everyone's taste, but does add a bit of fun. I've found its white, forward-facing flashlight useful though, either when parking somewhere poorly lit at night or simply navigating my way from shed to house in the dark.

Charging takes less than two hours from depleted, however I rarely let it get that low as it's so easy to pop the unit off and plug in a USB-C cable. It'll easily run continuously for a week's worth of commuting and I like the fact

that it announces the battery charge status whenever you turn it off or on.

There's very little not to like about the Sena 60S. Visually, it may be a bit brash for some tastes, but in terms of functionality, performance and ease of use, it's an excellent piece of kit. The fact that it comes with enough gubbins to fit out two helmets means it scores well on the value front too, and that handy little flashlight is the icing on the cake.

MCN rating ★★★★★
sena.com

PROS & CONS

- Excellent sound quality, effective noise cancelling
- Size: It's quite a big unit and may be too brash for some



Rev'lt Alpinus GTX
£549.99

Top-drawer waterproofs

Tested by Ben Clarke for eight months / 1000 miles
Forming part of Rev'lt's Urban Gore-Tex collection, these pants are designed to be worn over your normal trousers and whipped off at your destination, leaving you ready to work in seconds. I only wear them when it's raining so they've done approaching 1000 wet miles and have never let a single drop through. They're CE AA-certified so you could take a spill in them, too.

They're exceptionally well put together and have a robust quality that means you don't feel worried about yanking them over your jeans and boots – which you can do easily because of the long access zips.

The only downside when compared to wearing a normal set of waterproofs over riding jeans is that if the sun comes out during your working day, you still have to pull your Gore-Tex on to ride home but this is only really a bugbear in the warmer months.

The price is a bit of an elephant in the room, too, but if you were a year-round city commuter these pants would be perfect and doubtless last years and years with some proper care.

MCN rating ★★★★★
revitsport.com



Alpinestars
AMT-10 AIR HDry gloves £194.99

My go-to for off-roading

Tested by Michael Guy for three years
I ride a lot of off-road and adventure bikes and these Alpinestars AMT-10 gloves have been my go-to for more than three years now. They are lightweight enough to give great control and feel while being tough enough to protect your hands and withstand a fall. They're designed for everyday riding including hot humid conditions and wet weather, thanks to the separate laminate over-glove that packs away neatly and is easily put on when the rain comes.

Since getting these gloves I've used them on bike launches in Greece, Sardinia, South Africa and India as well as numerous days green



laning and adventure riding here in the UK. Standout features include the fit and narrow cuff, goats skin palm, touch screen compatible index finger and thumb along with hard knuckle protection. Not cheap but I'm impressed with how they've lasted despite the high number of

miles and hours I've worn them. Yes they're weathered, but despite the use they don't feel compromised in any way. They are not cheap at close to £200 but it really is a case of getting what you pay for.

MCN rating ★★★★★
www.alpinestars.com

Merlin
ThermaVolt Heated Mid-Layer Jacket £229.99

Keeps you hot when it's not

Tested by Robin Kirkley for three months
This is my first experience with a heated mid-layer jacket, and I don't know why I've waited so long. I used to bulk up with thermals and warm jumpers, which made for a fairly rigid ride. But now I simply wear a base layer or a T-shirt under the ThermaVolt, which is much more pleasant. It's a thin, stretchy jacket, and quite light so it fits easily under my main jacket.

Well, except for the bulky rechargeable battery, that is. I have to remember to shift it around to my side so it doesn't press against my stomach. The battery lasts around four hours on the lowest heat setting, and it's all I've really needed up to now. When winter gets to its coldest I'm sure I'll be pumping up to the highest setting, which will apparently give me around two hours of battery life. That's pretty much in line with other heated jackets being tested by the MCN team. In order to conserve the battery on a long ride I've experimented with turning the



heat off when I stop for a coffee, then leaving it off until I start feeling chilly again. I can usually ride for quite a while until I need to switch it back on since there's a thin reflective layer that keeps the heat in.

There are also practical touches like the high collar that covers a neck tube, and extended sleeves that fit snugly into winter gloves. If you plugged the jacket into the bike's 12V battery you wouldn't have any of these worries, but I've already got a CarPlay system wired in, which is why I use the jacket's rechargeable battery option. There is a matching mid-layer trouser that connects to the jacket, if you fancy being completely wired up.

MCN rating ★★★★★
www.merlinbikegear.com



They're comfy, warm and dry

Tested by Michael Neeves for 16 months/10,000 miles
These are my second pair of much-loved, year-round riding boots. My originals lasted a good 20-odd thousand miles and two years, but I eventually wore through the sole near the right toe, where I rest it on back brake lever, which I

tend to do with all boots. They were still in tip-top condition otherwise. They're warm and dry in winter, not too hot in summer, and all-day comfy on and off the bike. After 10,000 miles, these Mk2 versions are still in great condition, including the sole. Alpinestars have recently produced a third-generation model, too.

MCN rating ★★★★★
www.alpinestars.com