

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

Fully functional for all-weather riding

3300 miles ON TEST



CE Level 2 D30 Air XTR armour is super substantial



Rukka Hybrid-R Textiles £1499 jacket, £1099.99 trousers

The only suit you'll ever need



Tested by Justin Hayzelden for four months

Rukka is often regarded as gold standard gear but does it live up to the hype, and can the price of £2589.99 for the Hybrid-R really be justified?

Construction is heavy-duty, abrasion resistant Cordura, approved for the CE AA certification. I've worn many garments certified to the same standard, but the Hybrid-R feels significantly more durable than most. A full suite of D30 armour covers shoulders, elbows, hips, knees, back and chest, with the CE Level 2 limb protectors feeling substantial, and more like the kind of armour you'd expect to find in a one-piece race suit.

Despite its sturdiness, the Hybrid-R is very comfortable. A full 360° connecting zip and wide, removable

braces help keep the trousers snugly in place, and there's even a stowable crotch strap to stop the jacket riding up. With everything fastened and secured I feel safe and protected; that peace of mind is as important for focus as the physical aspect should the unexpected occur.

For weather protection, Rukka employ a triple-layer Gore-Tex Pro membrane, laminated to the outer shell, and it's proved so effective that I've survived regular winter riding without the need to don a waterproof oversuit. Even areas that are particularly vulnerable to letting in moisture, such as around the neck and wrists, have remained watertight, thanks to a high Gore-Tex storm collar and clever double cuff.

The two outer pockets do eventually become damp inside, but I only ever keep keys in these (there's a

handy keyring clip in the right-hand one) and stash my phone in the inner pocket on the left breast.

An Outlast lining keeps temperatures on an even keel, and it comes with a separate midlayer for extra warmth; this can be worn as a 'destination jacket' if desired. There's no thermal lining for your bottom half, so it can feel a bit chilly on colder days if you don't wear a base layer. A wide range of vents allow for ample airflow in warmer weather, as I've discovered on overseas launches, but the heavy-duty black construction can feel a bit warm when you're stationary beneath a beating sun.

Every single element, from the soft-touch neoprene collar to the waterproof shell and secure, elastic waistband of the trousers, is manufactured to an extremely high standard. The fit is spot-on, it's

flexible and comfortable enough to wear all day and feels suitably robust to shrug off almost anything you can throw at it. As an investment for a professional rider looking for gear to wear all year, year after year, it's certainly worth the asking price, especially when you consider the six-year warranty and lifetime Gore-Tex guarantee. As a versatile, do-it-all solution, the Hybrid-R could well be the only suit you'll ever need.

MCN rating ★★★★★
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PROS & CONS

- + Impressive waterproofing, top-notch tailoring
- Comes in black only, outer pockets can get damp



Vents a-plenty for keeping cool



Double cuffs prevent moisture from wicking up your sleeve on wet rides