



Roadskin Munro Armoured Shirt £159.99

'It's time to get shirty'



Tested by Richard Newland for 12 months

This CE AA-rated armoured shirt is as close to perfect as I've tried for this sort of product. It's beautifully made, superbly comfortable, looks great on and off the bike, and always attracts appreciative comments. The Munro is available in sizes XS to 3XL, I wear an XL and it's true to size and fits exactly as I'd hope.

The 98% cotton / 2% Spandex mix on the outer means it feels soft and pleasing to the touch, while the Kevlar lining and CE Level 2 back, shoulder and elbow protection is what gets it to that AA rating. I've worn it down to around 10°C comfortably (ish), and it's bearably cool when the mercury rises in peak summer, and has chest vents to allow more airflow in. The sleeves do a good job there, too, as they're a bit short for my arms – especially if you combine it with shorty gloves. The only other niggle is that the external chest pockets aren't deep enough to take a modern smartphone (while the two internal pockets are).

But those two niggles aside, I really love wearing this shirt-style jacket, which has become a firm favourite for summer rides.

MCN rating ★★★★★
www.roadskin.co.uk

Stylish, well made and gets lots of compliments – but enough about Rich

8000 MILES ON TEST



Eufy S330 floodlight camera £239

'Cheap, but for a reason'



Tested by Gareth Evans for 8 months

This 2K, 360-degree security camera with floodlights is one of the most popular bike-related products in Amazon's sales events. That's why I decided to get one and find out what it's like.

In short, it's not great. It works intermittently and quite often needs a reboot before operating as expected. This has worsened the longer I've used it, and I'd imagine at some point it's going to give up the ghost altogether. It has a one-year warranty that I'm going to be putting to the test soon, but unfortunately owners' reviews online do also speak of reliability problems, so I'm not alone.

The picture isn't fantastic either when using the app.

That said, it's unusual in its market in that you don't need to pay a subscription to store the footage – it remembers up to 30 days in its 8GB memory (based on 45 captures per day), so you're not locked into a payment plan of any sort, unlike you are with many rivals.

It does need hard-wiring into mains power, though, so I got an electrician to install it. It's connected



Looks the part, but isn't very reliable

by Wi-Fi, so it'll need to be within reach of your network.

It's not an always-on device and doesn't use a lot of data, recording only when the sensors are triggered by movement. This fires a notification to your phone and gives you the option to record the scene in front of the camera.

The app, which is simple and old-fashioned-looking, also allows manual live viewing in the direction of your choosing, and the facility to project sound to the device so if you spot someone doing something they shouldn't be, you can act as your own deterrence. You've got the option of a siren or your own voice, which means it's possible to have a bit of fun with the people you live with if the mood takes you!

As new, this is among the cheapest integrated security light and cameras around, and it's often subject to huge discounts too, and furthermore is available refurbished for even more money off.

With rivals weighing in at more than £100 more expensive, it's a value option, but I wouldn't recommend it.

MCN rating ★★★★★
www.amazon.co.uk

8 months ON TEST

Alpinestars Alya jacket £279.99

'Comfortable and stylish'



Tested by Ali Silcox for six months

This is a stylish and comfortable textile jacket, which I've worn through all manner of weather conditions and is ideal for three seasons. Made with stretchy areas and shaped to consider the female body, the jacket is comfortable and accommodates the curves around my hips, with the use of short zips at the hip.

There's a fully waterproof membrane and a thermal waistcoat for warmth which is removable for sunnier days. Sleeves are long enough to touch my wrists and cuffs slim enough to tuck inside gloves.

If you're an 'inny' and prefer gloves

3000 miles ON TEST



Bringing a little Italian style to the Fens

to go under the cuff, Velcro accommodates this too. Zipped outer pockets are waterproof and there's inner pockets too, all fit my phone in with ease.

CE Level 1 protectors at shoulders and elbows are included, plus there's a pocket for a back protector but

note that the jacket only carries the basic CE A safety rating

When off the bike, it's not overly bulky and bikey, so I don't feel like a Michelin Man when trotting around town rather than riding.

MCN rating ★★★★★
www.alpinestars.com

Pando Moto Lorica Kev 02 jeans £219

'Summer lovin'



Tested by Saffron Wilson for 500 miles

These trousers are CE A-rated, meaning they only claim to offer enough protection for low speed urban riding. Initially I wasn't sure about the waxed denim, but in person, they are much less 'leather look' than I thought and the fabric itself is hard-wearing, meaning they'll stay in the gear rotation for a while yet. Overall, the fit is nice, but they were a little tight on the waist for me although the stretch panel means sitting on the bike isn't too breezy. The pockets are a decent size, and the knee armour (SAS-TEC TripleFlex Level 1) isn't too bulky, although if you want to add some hip armour then that is sold separately.

MCN rating ★★★★★
www.saltflatsclothing.co.uk



500 miles ON TEST