



2000 miles ON TEST

Richa Slick WP £79.99

‘Good, but can be a little slippy’

Tested by Joseph Wright for two months

These boots provide excellent comfort both on and off the bike. Their flexible support and the clever combination of laces and Velcro make them easily adjustable to fit your foot width and ankle girth. With the Velcro, you can avoid any embarrassing falls at traffic lights by tucking in the laces. Although the design is casual and sporty, the black and white colour scheme is reminiscent of bowling shoes, which may not be to everyone's taste. The all-black option is probably better for those who prefer a cleaner look.

The upper is constructed of durable leather, which has remained unscathed after repeated gear changes. They're waterproof and provide excellent warmth for winter riding, but they lack breathability, causing feet to sweat on hot summer days. Unfortunately, the soles are quite smooth, which makes it challenging to manoeuvre the bike, especially at petrol stations. Protection includes leather reinforced heel and toe pads. Overall, a good choice for riders who prioritise flexibility and comfort over maximum protection.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.sportsbikeshop.co.uk

They're perfect on Joe's ZXR400

Fit is great but they could be more breathable



Striding into adventure...

REV'IT! Component H2O Pants £349.99

‘From Iceland to South Africa’

Tested by Michael Guy for 10 months

Finding the right kit for adventure and off-road riding isn't always easy. Being in the UK, having something warm and waterproof sits pretty high up on the list of priorities but so is comfort, ventilation and fit.

The Component H2O pants are part of REV'IT!'s Dirt series and were my choice for two significant adventure rides, starting with a trip to Iceland with Honda Adventure Roads in July and a more recent Husqvarna Norden Expedition launch in South Africa.

First up is the fit, with adjustable waist and well tailored design they give space to wear proper knee protectors or knee braces but don't have excess material flapping around or rucking up when you ride.

They come with a removable thermal layer, but I've been running them with this removed, instead using a base layer for extra warmth and comfort.

Not only are these trousers waterproof but they also have an internal gaiter which goes over the top of your boots; all of which helps to keep your feet dry, even in deep water.

The trouser legs are adjustable to give a good fit over your boots without any excess material flapping around. There are two vents on each thigh, but they aren't super effective given that they don't open wide enough to allow significant flow.

Made from Cordura rip stop fabric there is also cow hide on the inside of the legs. I initially thought this was a bit overkill, but it's unobtrusive when riding and it's showing signs of wear, meaning that it's in the right place where your legs come in contact with the bike.

There is also a Component jacket to match the trousers, which benefits from the same material and features. But it doesn't have a zip and you put it on over your head – having broken my shoulder and collarbones I can't put it on without help – so I'm yet to use it!

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.revitsport.com




7000 miles ON TEST

Forma Hyper Dry £169.99

‘They’re comfy, practical and cool’

Tested by Ben Clarke for 10 months

I reviewed these boots last year after 1000 of use and I was really impressed with their summer performance, but what I didn't expect was to be impressed with them through the winter too. Like any right-minded human, I would normally swap into a pair of high, warm and waterproof style touring or adventure boots as the colder months roll in.

But these Forma Hyper Dry boots were just so comfy, convenient and reliable that I simply kept wearing them. I expected at some point that I would be punished for my addiction with wet and cold feet and finally have to retire them... but it never happened.

I rode in all kinds of rain, sleet and even snow and temperatures around zero, but the Formas prevailed. I noted in my last review that there was a wear patch on the left toe from gear shifts but this hasn't got any worse and doesn't let water in.

An astonishingly good pair of boots.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.formaboosts.com

Ben's not been getting cold feet



Experiment to find your best fit

Howard Leight Max Lite earplugs £26.49 (200 pairs)

‘Size matters’

Tested by Michael Neeves for seven months

Excessive wind noise is a pain, literally, so I always wear earplugs. I've tried custom fit, but they don't expand to make a seal when you push them in and they're expensive to lose. Cheap disposable foam plugs work best for me. I've settled on Howard Leight Max foam earplugs for nearly 20 years and swear by the little orange fellas. But, by chance I've found something even better from the same company: the Max Lite. I originally bought them for my girlfriend but discovered their smaller shape is quieter and more comfortable for me, too. Our ear canals are all different, so it's worth trying lots of different earplugs to get the right fit.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
sps.honeywell.com

10K miles ON TEST