



Fox Recon GTX ADV jacket £979.99

'Good, but not exceptional'



Tested by Carl Stevens for 5000 miles

Fox have been around for over 50 years now, and are one of the leaders in kit for the motocross, enduro and mountain bike scenes. They certainly know a thing or two about kit, and even though they're relatively new to the tarmac, their Recon jacket reflects their off-road experience.

Firstly, the fit, feel and finish is impressive, for the most part. The liners are well made, the pockets are plentiful and well placed, and the zips are all high quality. The only aspect I'd like tweaked is a slightly softer fabric around the neck, as after a full day it can be a little abrasive without a neck tube.

There's a load of cooling breeze available thanks to the underarm and chest vents, which make the Recon a solid choice for those really warm days in the saddle.

Plus, we've been through some seriously heavy showers together and the Recon's Gore-Tex three-layer body has never once even hinted of letting the rain through, which is an impressive feat after thousands of miles use in all conditions, and a fair amount of abuse along the way.

As far as protection goes, the Recon is only certified to 'A' for abrasion resistance, which is a bit of



18 months ON TEST

A stealthy look for adventure action

a shame considering the price, and how effective the jacket is in terms of its comfort, ventilation and its impressive waterproofing capabilities. It's constructed well, but it would be nice to have a AA certification for a bit more peace of mind on the tarmac between trails.

On the subject of which, it comes equipped with a Level 1 CE Certified D30 Viper back protector, along with Level 2 CE Certified D30 shoulder and elbow protection, which are both removable, and the latter adjustable

in placement positions. The armour, especially on the shoulders and elbow section certainly feels quality and is comfortable too, although I still wear an additional airbag, or back protector for added safety, whether riding on the tarmac or the dirt.

The Recon is an impressive jacket, although it does lose marks for its safety rating which is a little too low, and the price point which is too high.

MCN rating ★★★★★
www.foxracing.co.uk

Motorex Chainlube Off-road £14.99

'No fling, no fuss'



Tested by Adam Oldfield for 12 months

If you spend your time roosting in the dirt, then Motorex Off-road is the lube for you. This fully synthetic spray is purpose-built for serious off-road riding. Plus, it is tested for use with O-ring and X-ring chains, making it pretty versatile.

What stands out immediately are its excellent lubrication properties. It works its way into the tight gaps of the chain, especially if you apply it to a warm, freshly cleaned setup. Motorex recommend spraying a clean chain and letting lube soak in, ideally overnight. Something I have never been patient enough for, but you get sweet coverage; I'm converted, and patience pays off.

Out on the trail, it resists fling (no decorating your swingarm in grime), shrugs off water, and clings even when things heat up. Having put it through its paces, I can confidently say that it has reduced visible wear, helping extend the life of both my chain and sprockets.

Available in 500ml and 56ml refill cans, it's a lubricant that earns its place in any off-road garage.

MCN rating ★★★★★
www.motorex.com

12 months ON TEST



Switzerland's finest lubricant

HJC RPHA 60 £469.99 + 50B Intercom £349.99

'Bit noisy on some bikes'



Tested by Steve Herbert-Mattick for one month

Clearly, the RPHA 60 is a very nice lid. ECE 22.06, premium feel, lustrous finish and plush, removable and washable lining. It's easy to slip into but difficult to take off – with the miniscule opening great for noise reduction and comfort but hard to pull up over jaw and ears. The mist-free, Pinlocked visor gives excellent vision, and there's good coverage from the drop-down sun visor. Vents are easy to operate with gloves on and they're effective too.

Fitting HJC's dedicated intercom wasn't much easier than fitting a universal one, but once installed, the



1000 miles ON TEST

unit integrates seamlessly with the helmet and is a doddle to use. Based on the Sena 50S/50R Bluetooth 5 units, sound is clear and crisp.

So far, so five star, right?

Well, I've used the helmet almost exclusively on my Voge DS900X and the combination of that bike's adjustable screen (in either position) and the RPHA's somewhat stubby peak just doesn't work. Above 50mph, the noise becomes a headache-inducing rumble that

drowns out HJC's most expensive and premium headset. For comparison, I've tried a different peaked lid and a full-face road lid on the same bike with no such problems, and using the RPHA on a retro bike was noticeably quieter.

The RPHA 60 is a nicely made, comfortable, premium-feel helmet. But it may not be totally compatible with some bike's screens.

MCN rating ★★★★★
www.oxfordproducts.com



You can't miss it

5 years ON TEST

Gear Gremlin Classic £59.99

'Soft but hard-wearing'



Tested by Saffron Wilson

Even though this cover has been sitting both on and off a bike for five years (I mostly garage my bikes, so it hasn't spent its whole life outside) it is standing up well. The inside has a soft material to avoid scratching paintwork, and the neon colour on the top promises protection from UV. Although I can't

say whether this works completely, I can see that there isn't any flaking from the cover's coating, the strap that you pass under the bottom of the bike is still easily usable and there have been no tears from passing numerous chains through the wheel cut-outs. I've used it with three different motorcycles, and it's big enough to accommodate all.

MCN rating ★★★★★
www.thekeycollection.co.uk