

KIT TESTED

'Top-value lid has stacks of features'

LS2 Vector Chelmet £249.99



Tester Peter Baker
Time tested four months/ 500 miles
What's good? If you like a helmet with lots of features you're in luck. The LS2 Vector C comes with a carbon composite shell, iridium blue drop-down sun shield, quick-release buckle, Pinlock fog shield, two(!) chin curtains, breath deflector, quick-release system... the list goes on.

Hiding behind the spec is a decent lid that weighs just 1314g (size M), has an easy to operate visor release mechanism and is well finished with a subtle chequered effect paint finish. The fit is snug and it's well padded, plus there's space around the temples for spectacle arms. The Vector C is quiet too. The iridium drop-down sun shield is easy to operate and very effective. **What's not?** When installed the Pinlock fog shield fouls the rubber rain seal, making the visor stiff to open. The top air vents don't seem

to do much, but I've yet to try a vented lid that works effectively, even on helmets costing twice as much as the Vector C. With both chin curtains in place and the visor shut the lid is virtually draft-free. Spectacle wearers will want to discard both the chin curtains otherwise glasses fog up.

Contact www.ls2helmets.com/uk
Quality ★★★★★
Value ★★★★★



People who like these things are just plain wrong. Give me a double D ring



The visor release mechanism is well designed and easy to use

+ Good fit, draft-free, light and well padded

- Pinlock makes visor stiff, top vents don't do much



TESTED FOUR MONTHS

The LS2 is comfy and quiet out on the road

Oxford Navigator 1.0 gloves £47.49



Tester Maria Vallahis
Time tested 5 months / 2000 miles
What's good? Oxford are generally the go-to brand for affordable bike gear. This is the same for these Navigator 1.0s. For less than £50 you have a glove that is warm, comfortable and secure on your hands. I take them everywhere with me and from the moment I started wearing them, they were comfortable. The knuckle

and finger guards are rigid with soft padding on the palm. The cuffs are easy to fit under a jacket but expand with enough bulk to fit over my biking jacket too.

What's bad? Although the internal waterproof Hipora lining has kept my hands dry, the exterior material of these gloves does soak up a lot of water when it rains. Using the glove's suede visor wipe has the same fabric-drenching effect.

Contact www.oxfordproducts.com

Quality ★★★★★
Value ★★★★★



2000 MILES

Decent quality for under 50 quid... can't be bad

Forcefield Sport Lite 1 Back Protector £94.99



Tester Michael Guy
Time tested 4 years/21,000 miles
What's good?

Thankfully, I haven't actually tested the Sport Lite's protection credentials as I've never crashed while wearing it. But it has become my favoured back protector because of its secure fit and soft-yet-thick construction. It meets CE Level-1 protection standards. The shoulder straps are fully adjustable and the Velcro waist strap has lasted well and still holds securely after years of use.

What's not? There's absolutely nothing to fault with this back protector, it's even great value too, as this model is now available for around £60 as it's been superseded by an upgraded model.

Contact www.forcefieldbodyarmour.com

Quality ★★★★★
Value ★★★★★



21,000 MILES

The Sport Lite back protector is still going strong

Motul E2 Moto Wash £10.49 for one litre



Tester Simon Brown
Time tested Three washes
What's good? The claims

for this cleaner are impressive. It's billed as a powerful biodegradable cleanser and degreaser that leaves a corrosion resistant film and is suitable for use all over the bike. With that in mind, I have been using it on my Ducati Scrambler FT. The method is simple, wet the bike, spray over with the cleaner, leave for a bit, agitate and rinse away. It leaves a decent finish.

What's not? This cleaner doesn't quite perform as well as the company claims. Dried-on flies and flung lube do clean off but you need to put some effort in. It's quite expensive but I have managed three washes and the bottle is about half full.

Contact www.bikeoil.co.uk

Quality ★★★★★
Value ★★★★★



3 WASHES