

'This tool has become an extension of my left hand'

Simon's new Dremel tool has made work on his old Triumph's carbs an absolute joy

Dremel 8050-Micro cordless, £105.97

Tester: Simon Relph

Time tested: 11 months

What's good? Everyone's toolbox contains certain items we just can't do without, ones that become extensions of our hands. I didn't know the Dremel 8050 Micro was going to become such a gem until I got one. It's smaller than the Dremel 8200 cordless, and a third of the weight, but still boasts 8-volt power. I rarely run it at full speed as whatever you are cutting, grinding or drilling will disappear very quickly indeed. I have recently been using it to clean out the ports on a Triumph inlet manifold. I wanted to lose any unnecessary material so the gases flow smoothly from the carburettor, through the manifold, and into the cylinder head. This job is normally a real chore, but with the aid of the 8050-Micro it's an absolute joy. The best improvement over the 8200 is the addition of a built-in LED light to help you see the thing you're working on, especially when the job is small and intricate. Another nice touch is an LED 'fuel' gauge to help you know when the tool is about to run out of juice. This really is an impressive and controllable little creature; a definite must.

What's not? Having to recharge the battery. That said, if you keep an eye on the gauge you can make sure you don't run out of charge just at the wrong moment.

Contact: www.dremel.com

Quality rating: ★★★★★

Value rating: ★★★★★★



DETAILS

1. LED headlight

Such a great addition to be able to see in dark areas.

2. Battery level

This is a great help to know how much power is left.

TOP 5 JOBS FOR THE MICRO DRILL

1 Cleaning caliper internals

If your brake calipers are very old and well used, the piston seals can become crudded up. When they're removed, a micro drill with a brass or copper brush is ideal for getting dirt out without damaging the metal.

2 Making holes

There are occasions where owners will look to fit small switches inside the trim on their bikes, and a micro drill is ideal for cutting the hole into which it will slot.

3 Polishing

Micro drills will take a small polishing mop on the end, which is ideal for polishing small areas such as bolt heads that are showing signs of tarnish after winter riding, or areas like brake caliper banjos.

4 Cutting plastics

If there are areas that need trimming, such as screens or plastic edges, a micro drill is the perfect tool for the job. If you have fibreglass track bodywork, micro drills are ideal for cutting them cleanly where necessary.

5 Chain removal

The best way to split a chain is with a dedicated tool, but if it's a stubborn rivet, cutting/grinding the head off with a micro drill will let you push it through and separate the chain ends ready for you to fit a new chain and sprocket set. Or you can just cut a link.



GET YOURS AT
MCNshop.com

Knox Orsa gloves, £79.99



Tester: Andy Davidson

Time used: One year, 12,000 miles

What's good? These are my go-to gloves when it gets a bit warmer. They're lightweight, breathable, peppered with protection, supremely comfortable, look cool, and are competitively priced. There's a lot to love. They've been my trusty companions for thousands of miles. The ratchet fastening system has a low profile, so the cuff fits easily under my jacket sleeve, and there's no fluff-attracting Velcro involved.

What's not? The fastening feels a bit alien at first.

Contact: www.planet-knox.com

Quality rating: ★★★★★

Value rating: ★★★★★★



GET YOURS AT
MCNshop.com

Oxford Lifetime X20 Tank Bag, £79.99



Tester: Alison Silcox

Time tested: One 1000-mile riding tour

What's good? Unlike some tankbags I've tried, the shape of this one means it sits well on the tank, and the baseplate gives me real confidence that the bag won't budge. Plus, you can detach the bag from the base and use it as a rucksack when you reach your destination. There's a rain cover, but the bag can resist the odd shower without it.

What's not? Magnetic bags are easier to fit than non-magnetic ones like this. Also, the headstock strap stops me putting the steering lock on when parked.

Contact: www.oxprod.com

Quality rating: ★★★★★★

Value rating: ★★★★★★



GET YOURS AT
MCNshop.com

Cold Killers Mini Tube, £19.99



Tester: Tony Hoare

Time tested: Eight months/3000 miles

What's good? A decent neckwarmer can make one hell of a difference to a ride. And this is definitely a decent neckwarmer. It's windproof at the front, with a mesh section around the mouth and nose to let you breathe, and the lining is a soft fur-like material called Velboa. It's comfy, adds very little bulk around the neck and works well in both light chills and full-on winter cold.

What's not? The elasticated top is a little tight for me, although the rest of it fits well.

Contact: www.planet-knox.com

Quality rating: ★★★★★★

Value rating: ★★★★★★