



Excellent on
and off the bike

6
months
ON TEST

RST Roadster 3 Waterproof Boots £129.99

'Ride in comfort and walk around in style'



**Tested by
Robin Kirkley
for 3800 miles**

These are tough motorcycling boots that are also comfortable enough to wear all day walking around in the office, or even doing some touristy stuff off the bike when on tour.

They're not quite as breathable as other boots I've reviewed – maybe because of the polyester lining and

waterproof membrane – but that hasn't stopped me making these my default riding boots.

First and foremost, they are easy to get on – just open the zip and Velcro tab on the side, loosen the laces, and my feet slip right in. Once on, they feel snug, well-protected (their 1-2-2-2 CE certification is the highest short boots can achieve) and ready for the road.

The sizing was perfect from the outset but I replaced the laces with a

thicker set as a personal preference. The Roadster 3s have a water resistance rating and they've kept my feet dry through spring and summer showers and rain, but I haven't ridden through any biblical downpours as yet.

Small point – because of their casual aesthetic, they look best with a pair of riding jeans.

MCN rating ★★★★★
www.rst-moto.com

Adventure Spec Aqua Pac boot liners £40

'They're worth every penny'



**Tested by Nye Davis
for 14 months**

Socks are a criminally undervalued bit of winter kit. Many assume 'waterproof' boots will keep your toes snug and dry, but truth be told, I'm yet to find a pair that doesn't leave you with swamp foot when conditions are truly ranky.

That's where these Aqua Pac boot liners come in. Made by Adventure Spec, they're described as a "more robust alternative to a waterproof sock."

They do exactly as they say on the tin, and for £40 they're worth every penny if you ride through the worst of winter.

That said, the Aqua Pacs are not without their drawbacks. Their extreme proficiency in preventing



Ideal for wading
through winter

14
months
ON TEST

water ingress also doubles as an inability to wick sweat away. So while your feet will avoid a soaking from puddles, your own perspiration will leave them damp if it's warm enough. Their sturdy construction can also limit fit, especially if your boots are already on the tight side.

But overall, the Aqua Pacs are a very handy bit of kit. If you find yourself riding in the coldest, most rainy months of the year, particularly on unpaved roads, they're a worthy addition to your wardrobe.

MCN rating ★★★★★
www.adventurespec.com

Spada Muramasa £299.99 jacket, £239.99 trousers



**Tested by Steve
Herbert-Mattick
for six months**

I don't think I've ever had the perfect set of textiles, but the first few months with the Muramasa – Spada's new AA-rated, laminated T20 nylon suit – seemed like a holy grail find.

Retro-styled but bang up to date on construction, the all-black jacket and trousers have a tough but soft and supple feel. There's a plethora of generous, easy-access pockets, including chest, hip and lower back, plus internal phone pocket and fleece-lined hand warmer pockets, too.

Ventilation is superb – especially on the arms, with large zip openings. Although if you ride with a rucksack (as I almost always do) the shoulder and chest vents are next to useless, trapped by your bag straps. A neat detail sees the chest 'pocket' flaps popped out of the way to reveal the vents inside.

Adjustability is excellent, enabling a secure and comfortable fit with double arm adjusters, waist straps and zip outs on the jacket's sides.

Chunky but flexible five-piece armour in the jacket (back, shoulders and elbows) and four-piece armour in



A great two-piece suit, but make sure you pack some waterproofs

the trousers (knees and hips) is Level 2 rated and fits around my body well, creating no pressure points or discomfort.

The cargo-style trousers are comfortable and well-vented too, though the waterproof zips on the hand-warmer pockets are cold-knuckle-scuffingly stiff.

However, the Muramasa is let down is the fact it leaks. Any breathable fabric has a point where it gives up (called the hydrostatic head and measured in mm x 1000), and the Spada suit has 10k waterproofing and 16k breathability. It'll see off a shower, but on my very short commute home in a torrential downpour, water pooling in the creases of my elbows and top of the trousers leaked through to my clothes.

I still love it, and ride in it daily. But now I just ensure I've always got my waterproofs with me.

MCN rating ★★★★★
www.spadaclothing.com

2500
miles
ON TEST

Suitably sporty
and practical



MT Thunder 4 SV £149.99

3
months
ON TEST

'Unexpectedly good'



**Tested by Charlotte
King for 1800 miles**

This helmet surprised me. At a shade under £150, my expectations were set low. But the quality and performance are such that I would be more than happy to buy one.

It has shown no sign of wear yet, and boasts all the creature comforts I would expect in a sports-touring helmet: a drop-down sun visor,

intercom compatibility and sufficiently sporty looks.

It is only let down by the poor ventilation which unfortunately resulted in a very hot, uncomfortable head in summer and misting issues as soon as the temperature dropped. It's quiet at normal road speeds but does get a little loud when slogging away the motorway miles.

MCN rating ★★★★★
www.sportsbikeshop.co.uk