



Smart... if you ride a Triumph

3 months ON TEST

**Triumph Braddan Air Race £475**

## 'Brilliant, if a little boxy'



**Tested by Nye Davis for 1000 miles**

Everything about Triumph's Braddan Air Race jacket has a tangible air of premium about it. It ought to be good, mind you, because at £475, the Braddan is a decent chunk of cash for what amounts to some pieces of cow, a zip and some very orange armour – more on the latter later.

Luckily, I'm yet to find any respect in which the Hinckley outfit's designers have scrimped, and it feels like this thing would last forever – it even still smells new after the first thousand miles.

There are nice touches to the AA-rated jacket throughout, including a zip cover to prevent gut-versus-fuel-tank scratching, a silky-smooth liner, and the use of so-comfy-you-forget-it's-there D30

padding (back protector included). It also flows air extremely well, too.

If I had to moan about anything, it'd be that the fit is a little too relaxed for me. I ordered a large when I probably should've gone with a medium, but that doesn't change the fact that the Braddan is a little on the boxy side – which can cause some bunching up when riding.

**MCN rating ★★★★★**  
[www.triumphmotorcycles.co.uk](http://www.triumphmotorcycles.co.uk)

**Furygan Kate jeans £199.99**

## 'Fit needs refining'



**Tested by Charlotte King for six months**

The CE AAA-safety rating of these Kevlar-reinforced jeans, and the way they look remarkably like regular jeans, is what drew me to try the Furygan Kate. They feel like regular jeans to wear, but for me the fit isn't the best; they fit well around the legs, but they gape around my waist, meaning I have no choice but to wear a belt.

That, however, is my only gripe with the Furygans because they are comfortable enough to wear for the entire day in the office, saving me from having to pack a change of clothes, and they offer the highest-rated level of protection.

The armour at the hip and the knee is exceptionally low profile and



Hundreds of miles in the saddle

2600 miles ON TEST

flexible to the extent you can't feel it when wearing them, which is great because I haven't been tempted to remove the protection.

They have the classic five-pocket design, which is handy for your phone and earplugs when off the bike.

Overall, these are a good pair of riding jeans however due to the issue with the fit for my personal shape, I don't think that they will have a permanent place in my wardrobe.

**MCN rating ★★★★★**  
[www.furygan.com](http://www.furygan.com)

**Sidi Mag 1 Boots £369.99**

## 'Sturdy and squeak-free'



**Tested by Justin Hayzelden for one year**

Considering their primary function is protection, the Sidi Mag 1s are extremely comfortable. The pre-formed microfibre upper wraps around the lower leg to closely follow the contours of shin and calf, so that when the micrometric fasteners are tensioned, it barely feels like they are there – and that's hugely important when you need to focus on the job in hand.

There's ample feeling for accurate operation of brake or gear selector, and knowing exactly where you are on the pegs. The fasteners use ultra fine cables and a rotary ratchet knob to draw the two sides of the boot together, and I particularly like the magnetic retaining clips which snap the loop into place around its anchor points. Not only is it convenient, but it also ensures perfect alignment before winding the mechanism taut. To release, you simply pinch a pair of buttons on each side.

CE certification is the higher Level 2 across the board, and I'd be surprised if they didn't exceed that by some margin. Inside the upper is a lightweight fibreglass-reinforced skeleton which provides reassuring



All-day comfort on road or track

sturdiness, and there's seemingly bomb-proof external protection, with replaceable sections for shin, toe and heel. If I was going to have an off, I'd be grateful to be wearing these particular Sidis.

Build quality is second to none – from the cossetting fit, to the precision-screwed plastics and fastener system, the Mag 1s feel like they've been crafted by a skilled bootmaker. They're so nice to wear that amongst all the protection and performance related gubbins

I'd swear there's the soul (or should that be sole?) of a high-end designer loafer. And they don't squeak! Although the upper isn't perforated, fabric panels at the front and rear, along with a switchable intake in the toe slider, allow plenty of breeze to blow through.

I've worn the Mag 1s for hours on end, either over a race suit with substantial shin padding on track or around bare shins under riding jeans to the pub, and they're perfectly fine for all-day fair weather use. I'd have no qualms about parting with my own readies for them.

**MCN rating ★★★★★**  
[www.sidiuk.com](http://www.sidiuk.com)

2500 miles ON TEST



Fits well but there are better bags out there

**BMW S1000RR tank bag (large) £257**

## 'Carries the essentials'



**Tested by Carl Stevens for three months**

Tank bags are a must on some trips, and the official BMW offering for the S1000RR has been incredibly helpful, albeit not without its flaws. It's easy enough to fit via tensioning straps under the seat and is just about big enough to hold a few locks and important documents, although

it does only sit at 7 litres (or 10 when it is fully extended) so don't expect to fit too much more, even though it is billed as a size 'large'.

It does secure pretty well and comes with a waterproof bag but it's not the most effective for heavy downpours due to the closure system – there are better, aftermarket alternatives on offer.

**MCN rating ★★★★★**  
[www.bmw-motorrad.co.uk](http://www.bmw-motorrad.co.uk)