

TESTED ✓

'This jacket's a flexible friend'

Knox Leonard waxed jacket £229.99

Tester Tony Hoare

Time used Five months/2500 miles

What's good? The Leonard jacket is a great piece of riding kit, but is also intended to be worn off the bike. So Knox, better known for their armour, created a range of close-fitting jackets that can be worn when visiting your local (shop or pub), then easily expanded slightly so they will fit over an armoured Knox undershirt. The Leonard is the wax cotton-style option (although it's made from a wax-effect textile rather than the old-style material) and the expansion comes with zips that run from waist to wrist on each side. It works well and the jacket is comfortable, waterproof and versatile thanks to a warm collar and cuffs that are attached with buttons so you can choose when you want them, and when you don't. The notion of a jacket that can be worn on and off the bike without having bulky armour is a good one and I have happily worn the jacket both for riding and nights out.

What's not? Firstly, the smartness of any proper riding kit is reduced by the amount of dead bugs and road grime you collect while out on the bike. And if you want to look smart when you get to your destination the Leonard is immediately hampered because you need to put the armoured undershirt somewhere (and the tight fit of the undershirt leaves the clothes underneath with creases). It's far easier in such situations to take off an armoured jacket and hang it somewhere. The £229.99 price only covers the outer jacket and it costs another £99.99 for the armoured undershirt (which does include a back protector) and another £39.99 for a thermal lining that can also be worn separately.

Contact www.planet-knox.com

Practical riding jacket that's waterproof and versatile enough to be worn casually, too.



Great for either riding or smart occasions, but your clothes get a bit creased.

Quality ★★★★★ Value★★★★★



2500 MILES



Tough undies
Armour is worn in a stretch-fit undershirt that ensures it covers the parts it should.



Room to breathe
Undoing this zip gives extra space for comfort when worn over armour.



Cuff adjustment
Four poppers to get the cuff adjustment right for either riding or a night out.

**THE RIVAL REV'IT AVENUE 2 GTX**

Price: £389.99

Similar styling, but slightly longer and with a hood (optional on the Knox). It's Gore-Tex and armour is fitted rather than in an undershirt, but a back protector costs extra.
www.revit.eu

MCNshop.com

TOP FIVE WATERPROOF SPORTS BOOTS

1 Spada X-Pro WP £129.95

Coated leather uppers and a waterproof and breathable membrane to keep your feet dry and there's a cushioned anti-slip sole for comfort and a double-density moulded ankle support as well as a zip/Velcro fastening with a buckle and strap to adjust the fit to suit your needs.

**2 Richa Blade Waterproof £119.99**

One of the few waterproof boots available in colours other than black, the Blades come in black/white or black/red as well as plain black. The upper is cowhide and there is protection at the shins, ankles and heels. They fasten with a combination of zip and Velcro.

**3 ARMR Moto Montegi 2 Race WP £89.99**

Basic part-leather boots with plastic protection for the shins, a gearchange pad, replaceable toesliders and the anti-slip sole you need while riding. They fasten with zips and Velcro. The most basic boots here, but that's reflected in the price tag.

**4 RST Tractech Evo CE Waterproof £129.99**

With a coated microfibre outer that RST claims is lighter and easier to look after than leather, the Tractech Evos are CE-approved for crash resistance and are protected against the weather by a Hipora waterproof and breathable membrane. There's also plastic shin, ankle and heel protection.

**5 Falco Oxegen 2 WTR £139.99**

Italian-made with synthetic uppers and a breathable waterproof membrane as well as D30 shock absorption. The plastic toesliders are replaceable and the soles are dual-density offerings.

