

# Plug and play for winter fun

Keis heated jacket and gloves harness heat from the bike to keep you toasty even when it's freezing



## Details

**1. Gloves have three heat settings, which are colour-coded. Press the button for two seconds to switch on and tap to cycle through the heat settings.**

**2. The optional heat controller (£29.99) is a worthwhile investment if you're thinking of going for either the jacket or vest. Without it the garments are always on full blast, which can be unbearable if it's not cold enough. It has four heat settings.**

**Keis heated jacket and gloves, £169.99 and £149.99**



**Tester:** Andy Davidson

**Time tested:** Four months/3000 miles

**What's good?** I hate that annoying, sweaty, claustrophobic feeling after 20 minutes of getting ready for a ride. Enter Keis heated gear. The jacket and gloves offer a warm, toasty, cuddly feeling on my 550-mile-a-week commute. It's pure luxury. The jacket comes with nifty features such as zips on the sleeves, which reveal handy sockets for the gloves. A side pocket provides the perfect hiding place for the temperature controller. And the jacket itself feels comfortable and snug. The gloves can either plug into the jacket or to the battery directly so they can work independently from the jacket. On a recent 1000-mile jaunt to Bavaria through minus-4°C temps I wore a thermal base layer and the Keis jacket under my kit. It was more than enough to keep me comfortably warm. The gloves keep the vulnerable backs of my hands hot and toast the fingertips. Every glove I've ever used has eventually let the cold in, apart from these.

**What's not?** The left glove's temperature control button has given up and stopped working; however, Keis will replace it under the one-year guarantee. Also, I tuck the wire that comes from the battery back under my seat when not in use and I think the bending has damaged the wire. A new cable to the battery fixed this issue.

**Contact:** www.motohaus.com

**Quality rating:** ★★★★★

**Value rating:** ★★★★★



**Shark Race-R Pro Carbon, £499.99**



**Tester:** Richard Newland

**Time tested:** Three months / 3500 miles

**What's good?** After nearly 20 years wearing one brand it was time to broaden my horizons. I last tried a Shark when Foggy was dominating WSB (see page 18), but couldn't get on with it. It's a different story today. I love the timeless styling of the Race-R's shell, the quality of the finish, feel of the materials and high level of protection, and it's the first non-Arai helmet I've worn more than twice without giving up on it. Once over the oddness of wearing something else, I'm sold. It's quiet, comfortable, plush, stable at speed and the visor system is lovely (as are the visors). This range-topper is £200 cheaper than my usual Arai RX7-GP, offers better tested protection according to SHARP, and feels more luxurious.

**What's not?** The top of my ears fold down every time I pop the Race-R on my head. It may have more to do with my ears than the helmet!

**Contact:** www.nevis.uk.com

**Quality rating:** ★★★★★

**Value rating:** ★★★★★



**Dainese Avro Div Lady two-piece suit, £694.99**



**Tester:** Emma Franklin

**Time tested:** Four years

**What's good?** In terms of surviving everyday wear and tear, this is a robust, well-built suit. It's done touring, commuting and track work in all weathers and – despite being a little grubby – it's still in perfect condition. Other Dainese products I've owned in the past have been a little delicate and I've been disappointed by the quality of the leather, but I can't fault this suit on build-quality. The thickness of the leather, stitching and the quality of the zips are all top notch. I particularly like the way the connecting zip is mounted on elasticated fabric, making it a little easier to zip the jacket to the trousers.

**What's not?** The armour is CE-certified, but I'm not a fan of the hard composite stuff Dainese use. I find it creates pressure points on my elbows and knees causing irritation. The leather collar also rubs on my neck.

**Contact:** www.dainese-central.com

**Quality rating:** ★★★★★

**Value rating:** ★★★★★



**Interphone iLink Bluetooth adapter, £53.99**



**Tester:** Simon Relph

**Time tested:** Two years

**What's good?** Like many people I have an iPod with all my music on, but mine does not come with Bluetooth. I have a crash helmet with Bluetooth microphone and speakers that I normally use to listen to directions from my sat-nav. It was only when trawling through the internet that I discovered this fantastic little piece of kit, which plugs into the bottom of my iPod to make it Bluetooth compatible with no fuss and no need for its own batteries. The moment it's plugged in the blue light flashes on and off, then I just press play on the iPod and it's ready to pair up with the Bluetooth intercom. Within a couple of minutes I'm listening to all my favourite tunes – what could be better?

**What's not?** At £53.99 is not cheap, but after a long ride listening to all my favourite music, it makes it well worth the money.

**Contact:** www.nevis.uk.com

**Quality rating:** ★★★★★

**Value rating:** ★★★★★



**Draggin' K-Legs kevlar long johns, £159.99**



**Tester:** Steve Hunt

**Time tested:** Four months / 400 miles

**What's good?** For shorter trips where I want to wear regular jeans, these Kevlar and Dyneema-lined long johns are excellent. Made from the abrasion-resistant materials used at the core of Draggin's riding jeans, these can be worn under anything to add a layer of protection. There's the option to add knee and hip armour if required, at extra cost. The material is soft and comfortable and in winter I've taken to wearing them under textile riding trousers for extra warmth. Hopefully I'll not need extra protection, but you never know.

**What's not?** They're expensive considering you can get good textile riding trousers for the same price. Oh and Kevlar can get hot! In summer it's tempting to think you can wear them under regular trousers all day and be comfortable. In reality you'll be itching to take them off

**Contact:** www.dragginjeans.net

**Quality rating:** ★★★★★

**Value rating:** ★★★★★