

TRIED & TESTED

MCN STAFF RATE THEIR RIDING KIT

RATINGS POOR ★ AVERAGE ★★ GOOD ★★★
VERY GOOD ★★★★ EXCEPTIONAL ★★★★★

TomTom Rider 550 £399.99

Tested by **Martin Fitz-Gibbons** for one year, 3000 miles



Externally, TomTom's flagship 550 is virtually identical to 2015's Rider 400, but inside it's heavily upgraded. A new processor claims "double the speed and five times faster start-up", though a back-to-back race with the old 400 shows start-up is more like half the time. Complex routes, like those calculated in 'Plan A Thrill' mode, are generated twice as quickly too, though there's not much difference for plotting standard A-to-B stuff. But there is a marked improvement in the general smoothness, slickness and snappiness of scrolling, pinching and zooming through maps. The 550's other big improvement is WiFi connectivity, so new maps, routes and speed camera info can be downloaded direct without plugging it in to a computer. A six-hour battery life is really handy, though normally you'd just wire the powered mount in and forget about charging.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.tomtom.com



Fuel stops and speed cameras are handy



ONE YEAR



The look is the same but it is faster and slicker than before

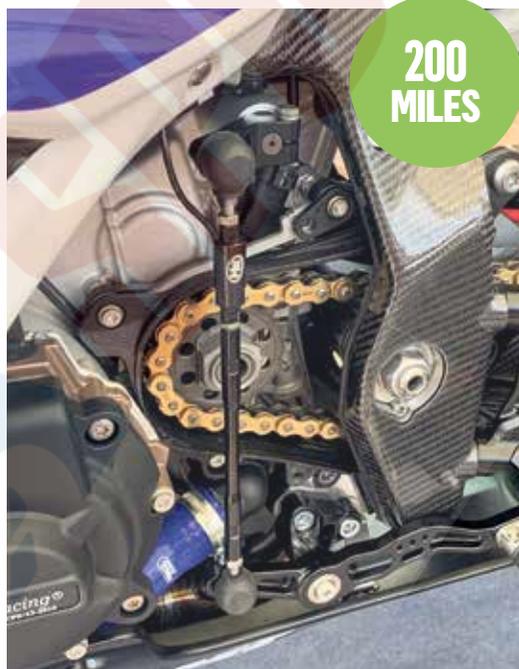
HM Quickshifter Blipper £366.66

Tested by **Michael Neeves** for two months, 200 miles



This neat little unit replaces the quickshifter/autoblipper switch on the new (2019-on) BMW S1000RR. It's a piece of cake to fit and uses the same plug connector in the wiring loom. The S1000RR's standard set-up works well enough and because the shifter switch is spring-loaded it's nicely damped for smooth road riding, but on the track and for racing it has a 'mushy', indirect feel. The HM switch, developed in racing (including GPs), uses a strain gauge so there are no moving parts to get in the way, or to go wrong. With it fitted to my S1000RR race bike gear changes are now crisper, lighter and more direct.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.hmquickshifter.com



200 MILES

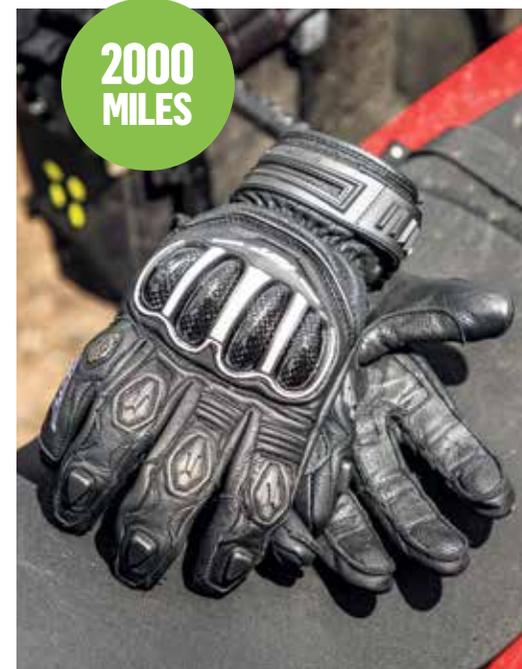
RST Tractech Evo gloves £59.99

Tested by **Ben Clarke** for three months, 2000 miles



I was intrigued by these short leather gloves, which combine hot weather summer comfort with reassuring levels of protection. As well as the short cuff you get a perforated leather section on the upper part of the glove (near the wrist) to help keep you cool when it's hot. Double layer reinforcement in crucial areas, a TPU palm slider and big carbon knuckle protectors provide crash protection. They are certainly cooler than a full race glove but after 2000 miles of use they are wearing through where the leather meets the palm slider on both hands and some of the stitching is unravelling.

Quality ★★★★★
Value ★★★★★
www.rst-moto.com



2000 MILES