

GEAR

RUKKA NAVIGATORR £929.99

Mind-bendingly expensive winter kit packs the best in protection and technology

You need to be serious about winter riding to splash out a grand on a jacket, but Rukka's new range-topper is made with very serious riders in mind. The Navigatorr, which goes on sale in March, is made from Gore-Tex's Pro outer shell material with extra strength coming from Armacor abrasion-resistant material that combines Kevlar and Cordura.

The Gore-Tex membrane itself is laminated to the back of the outer material so it is more effective than the traditional Gore-Tex Performance membrane when it comes to repelling water and drying out fast.

As well as Gore-Tex throughout the main construction, there are inner cuffs made from the material to further bolster rain defences and there's a detachable Gore-Tex collar that's made from stretch material for maximum protection from the wet stuff.

Insulation comes from a removable thermal lining that combines 60g of thermal wadding with Outlast temperature-regulating material, which stores body heat when there's an excess and can release it when the body needs to absorb it back.

There's a complete set of armour, including a full CE-approved back protector, which comes from British company D30, and there's also a pocket to accept a narrower spine protector if the rider wants less padding around the back.

One of the only issues with the Pro membrane is the inability to remove it for riding in hot weather, so the zip-up vents on the Navigatorr are crucial to helping keep the rider cool in summer. There are two on the front and one on each side with long zips to bring in cooling air when required.

Two of the four external pockets are waterproof, as are both internal pockets including one that's designed to stow away a phone.

The final matter that helps tip hardcore riders towards the Finnish brand is Rukka's lengthy warranty – UK buyers get six years of cover for anything going wrong, which reassures high-mileage riders.

■ www.tranam.co.uk

What makes it so waterproof?

1 Gore-Tex Pro beats the cheaper Performance membrane because it repels water on contact with the kit (Performance repels water after it has soaked past the outer).

2 This also means Pro kit dries quicker than Performance equivalents, because the outer doesn't saturate and spend ages dripping on your floor after a wet ride.

3 The extra benefit is that you stay warmer in Pro garments because you don't have to ride around with cold clobber drawing heat away from your body.



MCN SAYS

Tony Hoare, Consumer Editor
Nearly a grand for a jacket? You could buy a nice little car for wet days instead of that... Well, yes that's true but it would be a rubbish car and members of the MCN team who've used Rukka gear swear by it for quality and durability.

Even the collar has Gore-Tex, plus you get waterproof pockets and D30 armour



THE RIVAL

Dane Torben Gore-Tex Pro, £599.99

Rukka is brilliant kit, but there is a price premium. This jacket has the same waterproofing, a full set of armour and similar construction (but no six-year warranty).
daneclothing.uk