



Easy to fit and they look great

SW-Motech Legend Gear panniers
£143.99 each + side carriers £89.99 each

400 miles
ON TEST

Retro looks and bags of practicality



Tested by Steve Herbert-Mattick for four months

Small, a faff to get into, and absorb rain almost well enough to give kitchen roll a run for its money. They don't lock, nor lock to the bike. Pricy, too when the bags and mounting brackets are over £460 combined.

And yet, here I am recommending them. They're not here to do the job of a secure, adventure spec, ally three-piece suite. For a stylish retro

like our Royal Enfield Bear 650, they, match the bike's authentic aesthetic perfectly. I chose the 9.8l 'LS1' versions (13.1l LS2s are also available) because all I wanted was a bit of extra carrying capacity to discretely blend with the bike's handsome appearance.

Made from synthetic leather and waxed canvas, they're flexible and light but reassuringly tough too. And water resistant to a point – prolonged exposure to proper rain will definitely need the waterproof

inner bags (included). Closure is via a hook and loop, roll-top seal and three adjustable metal fasteners. And the quality of materials is excellent.

The mounting brackets are equally well made, align to the bike perfectly and installing them is easy. A simple mechanism makes it simple to fit and release the bags as needed.

A complete kit including one LS1 and one LS2 bag plus mounting kit is also available £463.99.

MCN rating ★★★★★
www.sw-motech.co.uk

Rev'it Arena GTX women's boots
£229.99

'The holy grail of dry feet'



Tested by Emma Franklin for 11 months

Over 5200 miles in every sort of weather, these Arena Gore-Tex boots have proved themselves the most waterproof touring kit I've used – and after some of the downpours we've endured, that's praise indeed! It's all down to Gore-Tex's Performance Comfort waterproof liner, a tri-layer laminate with a quick-drying textile lining and microporous membrane.

In my experience, I've found most waterproof boots' Achilles' heel is water creeping in where the upper joins the sole as materials age, particularly around the toebox. That's not been the case with the



The rain didn't stand a chance

11 months
ON TEST/5200 MILES

Arena GTX, which remained steadfast even during a memorably soggy three-hour blast back from Teesdale on the A1 in lashing rain,

Technically, they're straightforward: full-grain leather with PWR Mesh panels for some airflow, Seesoft CE-rated ankle protection with reinforced heel and toe, allowing them to achieve a 2-1-1-2 (with the higher Level 2 score coming for abrasion resistance). OrthoLite insoles feel plush

underfoot, while the robust rubber sole offers good grip on pegs, and a rubber shift pad helps when it's wet. The hook-and-loop/Velcro closure is basic but functional.

They're comfortable over distance, though they rub on long walks. They also stay fresh and the simple design means reliability over bells and whistles. Excellent all-weather touring companions.

MCN rating ★★★★★
www.revitsport.com

Furygan Challenger 3C jacket **£369.99**

See off winter



Tested by Robin Kirkley for 1000 miles

I've been riding with Furygan's Challenger 3C for over 1000 miles, mostly in cold and wet conditions, including a rain-soaked micro-tour to Northumberland. It is a waterproof all-season jacket with a three-layer laminate and a removable PrimaLoft thermal lining, which kept me warm and dry even during a seven-hour ride in single-digit temperatures, with just a T-shirt and mid-layer underneath.

The jacket isn't as heavy as some rivals I've used, and the PrimaLoft insulation is less bulky but still effective. Fit is easy to adjust with sleeve tabs and waist straps, and the YKK zip is sturdy and smooth. The collar fastens with Velcro and can be held open on hot days, while the mesh lining and AFS Max ventilation system promise good airflow for warmer weather, with two large front vents and two exhausts.

During a two-and-a-half-hour deluge, I deliberately didn't wear an oversuit to test the waterproofing. The outer got drenched, but I stayed warm and dry inside.

The jacket has five external and two internal pockets, including a credit card pocket on the left sleeve, which is great for petrol stops or



Well made and comfortable but the outer pockets aren't waterproof

tolls. The two main external pockets aren't waterproof, which seems like an oversight really.

Looks-wise, the black with red highlights and bold silver Furygan branding works well, with reflective details for visibility. The jacket keeps its shape, helped by the waist straps, and there's also a more visible colour option.

Build quality feels high, with tough, high-tenacity laminated polyester and polyamide construction, and the outer fabric is 100% recycled. The Challenger 3C is AA certified, with D30 armour at the elbows and shoulders, and pockets for optional back and chest protectors. The sleeve cuffs are well designed, with vents, zips, and Velcro for a secure fit with winter gloves.

At £369.99, I think the Challenger offers decent value for a quality jacket from a proven brand. I'll be using it for much of the coming season and will test the ventilation in summer. The only real downside is the two leaky front pockets in extreme rain, but otherwise, it's kept me comfortable, warm, and dry.

MCN rating ★★★★★
www.furygan.com

1000 miles
ON TEST



Not so warm without a jacket...

4 months
ON TEST

Gold Top Merino wool base layer **£70**

Luxuriously woolly warmth



Tested by Ben Clarke for four months/1000 miles

I've long been told about the magical powers of Merino wool but it has felt like a luxury too far for the likes of me. So I was very keen to get my hands on this 100% Merino version from British firm Gold Top that comes in at just £70 (it sounds a lot

but is cheaper than many man-made options on the market). The properties of the fabric mean that you stay warm on the bike but don't get clammy when you're walking about in full kit or manoeuvring the bike into its spot in the garage. It even comes in a posh box, top marks from me!

MCN rating ★★★★★
www.goldtop.co.uk