



Fiddly zip, but great quality

Enduristan Tail Pack £200

4 months ON TEST

'A zip so good, it's me-proof'



Tested by Gareth Evans for four months

Swiss adventure luggage specialists

Enduristan have been on the scene since 2008, but their luggage is often spotted on sand-blasted dune-bashers, which makes the fact I've been running this tailpack on a Honda VFR800F a little incongruous.

But nevertheless, this useful bit of

kit has impressed me in many ways. It feels ultra-high quality (which you'd expect considering its price...) and is claimed to be water, mud, snow and dust-proof. I can confirm it's kept everything out right the way through winter.

It carries nine litres of luggage, which easily took my largest lunchbox and a few security items, plus there's a handy folding separator so I can keep a wet disc

lock away from my food.

I found it easy enough to hook onto the VFR's pillion seat, although it's primarily meant for luggage racks on adventure bikes.

My only criticism is a reflection of its impressive capabilities: the zip is difficult to operate because of its weatherproofing, which catches and makes it a two-handed job.

MCN rating ★★★★★
enduristan.eu

Merlin Perton II jacket £399.99

'Practically casual'



Tested by Justin Hayzelden for 18 months

I always like to have some dual-purpose kit, gear that's designed to offer on-bike practicality and protection but doesn't look out of place when you're out and about on foot, and this Perton II wax cotton jacket from Merlin strikes that balance.

The outer shell is constructed from Cotec, a lightweight abrasion resistant waxed cotton fabric, developed with textile specialists Halley Stevensons. It's soft to the touch and feels a lot more flexible than not just traditional waxed garments, but a lot of contemporary textiles too. There's no scrimping on safety, as CE certification is to AA standard, and the Perton comes fitted with Level 1 D30 armour for shoulder, elbow and back. Decent tailoring places the protectors exactly where they need to be and fits them snugly enough to the body that I'm confident they'd stay put in a low-speed impact. Merlin have also added a belt loop to stop the back riding up, as well as a short connector zip should you have compatible jeans.

The overall fit and feel makes the Perton incredibly comfortable to wear, which is further enhanced by a



Comfortable and functional

breathable mesh lining and some torso vents which allow modest front-to-back airflow. That said, it's not really a jacket for scorching weather, however an effective Humax waterproof lining does give it the versatility to survive the middling changeable variety we're blessed with for most of the year.

I've been caught in a few showers and remained dry, however if a sustained downpour was on the cards I'd rather grab an oversuit or rethink attire altogether.

For colder conditions, it has a removable quilted liner with temperature regulating Outlast technology, and that has combined well with thermal base layers to keep me warm when the mercury dips to single figures. Pockets are plentiful both inside and out, including a neat card/coin stash on the forearm, and all zips and poppers are reassuringly sturdy.

After 18 months use in a variety of conditions the combination of vintage looks and contemporary performance has left me impressed, and I'd have no quibble at all with the £399.99 price tag.

MCN rating ★★★★★
merlinbikegear.shop

4800 miles ON TEST

Keis G701 Heated Gloves £195 + 12v battery set £85

'Don't get frozen, out'



Tested by Steve Herbert-Mattick for 1000 miles

For me, the first thing battery-powered heated gloves must do is work when the juice is drained. I have awful circulation in my fingers and they get cold very easily, so the soft, plush 3M Thinsulate lining in the G701s is a good start. They must also offer decent protection, and these come with a 1KP rating and include knuckle and finger armour, plus a decent scaphoid protector. Their fully-textile, vegan-friendly construction is waterproof and breathable, so cover all my bases.

With three heat level settings, controlled by a colour-coded LED



You get two hours or so of battery

6 months ON TEST

button on the back of each hand, they're easy to use and the thin, flexible micro-carbon fibres do an excellent job of distributing heat around my hands. Batteries last a couple of hours but add bulk to the long gauntlets, so maybe won't work comfortably with all jackets.

The ultimate test for me was a three-hour, 100-mile ride in three

degrees last winter. I thought the gloves were doing a good job until the batteries ran out. Within a few minutes I couldn't feel my finger tips and was in actual pain by the time I arrived. But before that I was warm, dry and comfortable. They're remarkably good.

MCN rating ★★★★★
keisapparel.com

5 months ON TEST

Big value but sound is average

Sena 50R Lite – Louis Edition £156.19

'Let there be Lite'



Tested by Robin Kirkley for five months

This intercom packs some useful features despite being the "lite" version of Sena's 50R offering. It features Mesh and Wave technology and runs on Bluetooth 5.0 with four separate channels. I didn't find it glove-friendly on the move but the buttons are

chunky so this could have been down to my bulky, heated winter gloves.

The HD speakers in this version aren't the all-singing Harman Kardons in the 50R, and you can tell when they're competing with wind noise at motorway speeds when they sound pretty feeble. But all in all it is a decent intercom for the price.

MCN rating ★★★★★
www.louis-moto.co.uk