



The GT's OE dash isn't always easy to read in the sun...

... but for £32 this Wunderlich shade solves the issue

4 MONTHS

### Wunderlich BMW TFT Screen Shade £32

## 'Putting info in the shade'

Tested by Richard Newland for four months/4000 miles



The K1600GT (and other Beemers, like the R1250RT) now boasts a cinematic 10.25in TFT colour dash. It's laden with connectivity and information that tells you everything you could want – or need – to know about your bike, where you're going, and what you're listening to. But that's only useful if you can see it clearly. While the screen's coating does a decent job of battling glare, it's not infallible. Adding this Wunderlich screen shade has made an immediate and tangible difference. It's not just noticeable on days when the sun's scorching the tarmac – even on uniformly overcast-but-bright days, it gives the TFT a deeper shade from which to shine. Formed in a matt-finished black ABS plastic it manages to look factory, rather than aftermarket, and clips/off in seconds. £32 to get a deeper, clearer, more legible dash? It's a no brainer.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★  
www.nippynormans.com



PlusGas liquid 250ml £14.99

## 'An all-round best friend in the workshop'

Tested by Simon Relph over 30 years



I was introduced to this product many years ago by my father when I was trying to get the front engine bolt out of my Yamaha XT500. Said bolt had endured a very hard life – plus the combination of a steel bolt through an aluminium engine was a recipe for disaster, especially when there is not a spot of grease in sight – so I was at a point when I wanted to take the engine out for major maintenance.

I'd managed to get every bolt out bar this one! I pointed out the problem to my father, who disappeared into his workshop, returning shortly after with a small blue and black can with a long thin spout. 'Try this,' he said. It was a very old but still half full can of PlusGas. He pointed out that it wouldn't work immediately on this job – it'd need some time to soak in after a few applications.

I applied the clear, almost water like substance all around the shaft of the bolt, where the rust from the bolt met the white aluminium oxide. I did this several times a day over a week so it could find its way along the bolt soaking into the rust and oxide that was holding the bolt in place. After a few days soaking and some gentle persuasion with a nylon hammer the bolt came out.

Since then, I have used PlusGas on most of my restorations, whether removing a rusted spindle from a wheel, or some tiny screws holding a horn together. Most jobs don't need days of soaking, only in extremes. If there is ever a rusty, suspicious-looking screw or bolt that looks like it might sheer off at the slightest touch, a drop of PlusGas almost guarantees it will come undone.

How it finds its way along threads and into the most stubbornly corroded areas is amazing. Then it lubricates to aid taking things apart. On top of all that it also protects the surface it is applied to. For me, PlusGas is an all-round best friend in the workshop. And if you're like my dad, keeping the old tin can might have paid off as I just saw one on eBay for £36. That's certainly one way of getting your money back! He could buy another three full cans of the stuff for that. For most of us, that'd be a lifetime's supply!

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★  
www.plusgas.co.uk



2000 MILES

TCX Hero Waterproof boots £199.99

## 'More than just riding boots'

Tested by Michael Neeves for one year/2000 miles



Gone are the days when bike boots were just for riding in. Many are now smart enough to don on any occasion, like these. I've been wearing them for the past year on road tests and launches, as well as just out and about. They look like army boots, but they're warmer and more comfortable, thanks to their soft full grain leather outer and cushioned Gore-Tex inner. They're more protective, too, with heel, toe and ankle protection. There's also an extra layer of

leather on top of the toes for the gearshift (on both boots), but it isn't thick enough and some gear levers can dig in. They're best for upright bikes and adventure machines. I've tried using them on sportier stuff, but the thick rubber soles make it tricky to get to the foot controls. TCX say they're waterproof and I haven't had wet feet wearing them, although I've never been caught in anything bigger than a shower. They're still in A1 condition and best of all they look better the more they're worn in.

Quality: ★★★★★ Value: ★★★★★  
www.uk.tcxboots.com



Alpinestars Sealed Sport Pack £139.99

## 'No signs of wear and tear'

Tested by Ali Silcox for 18 months/2500 miles



For me, a rucksack should be practical, comfortable and fully waterproof. This 23-litre bag from Alpinestars meets all these requirements. With welded seams and a roll-top closure, the bag is split into two sections, with a specific, padded section to fit my laptop. There's also a handy, fully waterproof outer pocket, perfect for keys. For comfort, there's a back pad plus the shoulder straps are also padded. There's an adjustable waist strap, along with a magnetic fastener at the sternum. After 18 months it shows no signs of wear and tear, plus it's never let wet in. Quality is top notch, but it's expensive compared to others.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★  
www.alpinestars.com

2500 MILES