

THE MCN SHOWCASE

SUMMER SPORTY GLOVES

Lightweight yet protective but which are the best all-round purchase?

- Fit and comfort rated
- Design, construction and CE scores rated
- Each pair used for hundreds of road miles

2 years ON TEST



Strap is secure but can pop out of its loop between wears

LS2 Feng £69.99

‘Tempting but not tough’

You can't argue with the price but we'd like some Kevlar



Tested by Emma Franklin for 5000 miles

Summer's here, that means vented race gloves go on! The 1KP-rated Feng are into their second summer of use and during the time I've owned them the RRP has been discounted down by £20 to just £69.99, making them extremely temptingly priced given their style and features.

With a chassis made from a mix of full-grain cowhide with a goat leather palm, long-line cuff with additional wrist strap, plus carbon knuckle protectors, finger-bridge and scaphoid protection, the Feng tick most of the boxes when it comes to safety features.

They look the part too, with eye-catching and, de rigueur for modern race kit, printed leather

panels providing a splash of in-your-face colour.

What they lack, though, is any additional aramid layer beneath the leather, intended to provide an extra level of protection from abrasion. Aramid, also known by the brand name Kevlar, is a highly abrasion resistant and lightweight fabric which manufacturers use in conjunction with leather to boost a glove's protective qualities without increasing bulk or reducing feel. Although the Feng have a panel of reinforced leather across the grip and heel of the hand, the rest of the palm is very lightweight. Also, after 5000 miles of use, the leather on the panel at the base of the thumb has worn and now feels perilously thin.

That aside, I do find myself gravitating towards them for sporty road rides in the summer, simply

because they feel like they provide a reasonable level of support plus have those long gauntlet style cuffs (which I admit, are a bit of a faff, especially as the Velcro wrist strap has a habit of popping out of its plastic retainer), but they do provide security and coverage for your wrist bones, plus they're comfy enough to wear all day and provide lots of feel for the controls.

There's additional padding across the knuckles to provide both impact protection and to prevent the twin pairs of carbon shells at the backs of the hands from digging into your skin, plus there are token gesture ventilation holes along the insides of the fingers and back of the hand, which don't do anything at all to prevent your hands getting sweaty.

On the subject of damp hands, should your hands get wet through perspiration or precipitation

(naturally, there's no waterproof membrane here...) the black dye from the leather transfers to your skin – although this does reduce over time and wear, it's still very disappointing.

Overall, although they look the part and pack plenty of features (including touchscreen sensitive thumb and index finger panels) they're not quite as racy as they appear so I wouldn't recommend them for track use and certainly not for racing.

MCN rating ★★★★★
www.LS2helmets.com

PROS & CONS

- + Impressive hard armour, long padded cuffs feel secure
- Thin leather on palms, no aramid, dye runs



Palm needs more reinforcement



Carbon scaphoid slider is a racy bonus