

How we assessed the gloves

We assessed glove performance in five areas: abrasion resistance, impact protection, insulation, waterproofing and user satisfaction when road testing. One set of each pair of gloves was sent off to an independent lab for the personal protection tests, while a second set was run through our cold and wet tests, then road tested. Each criteria was scored out of five (five being best) and the total marks added together to give a final figure out of 25. Price plays no part in our scoring – we’re ranking them solely on their performance.



ABRASION

Gloves have been tested for abrasion resistance by an independent lab in accordance with European standard EN 13594: 2002. To simulate the protection available should you slide down the road in them, the palm area is subjected to an abrasive belt with the time measured until the glove wears through. The minimum acceptable time is 2.5 seconds – this counts as a pass but only earns two points on RiDE’s score chart. Survive twice as long and the glove earns a third point; last 10 seconds and it gets four. To earn a five-point score, a glove has to survive at least 10 times the minimum standard – that’s 25 seconds.

IMPACT

The gloves have been tested for impact protection to the same standard. Many gloves here don’t feature knuckle armour, but we’ve subjected them to the same test to show the difference it can make. In this test the knuckle area is subjected to an impact energy of five Joules, and the force transmitted through the glove is measured. This is done twice and an average force calculated. The maximum acceptable is 4kN – any gloves that exceed this earn one point. A pass gets two points. To earn five points, both impact tests have to register less than 1kN of force – that’s four times better than the test standard.

WARMTH

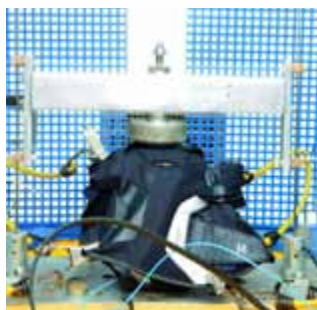
How warm your hands stay while riding involves many factors, but our test focuses on glove insulation. We insert a digital thermocouple (for measuring temperature) into each glove. The cuff is sealed and the whole glove inserted into a freezer for five minutes. Temperature inside the glove is recorded every second so the cooling rate can be studied. The less the temperature drops, the more points.

WET

RiDE’s waterproof test takes a two-step ‘soak and rinse’ form. With a tester’s hand inside, each glove is held in a fist shape in a jar of water for five minutes. If the tester’s hand doesn’t remain dry for five minutes, it scores one point. Gloves that pass are then subjected to a further three minutes under a stream of water. Survive and they get two minutes under the stream while the glove is moved and wriggled. Gloves get five stars if they survive 10 minutes with no moisture reaching the hand.

ROAD TESTING

Every set of gloves are tested in the real world by one of RiDE’s team of riders. Testers score on fit, fastening security, ease of use and overall satisfaction. Scores range from one (would refuse to wear through winter) to five (would eagerly want to wear through winter).



HELD TWIN

£154.99 SIZES 7-12 www.held.de

Abrasion	5
Impact	5
Warmth	4
Waterproofing	5
Road testing	5
TOTAL	24/25

It’s understandable if you balk at the £150 tag on a set of winter gloves, but the Held Twins have performed exceptionally well in every one of our five tough tests. They also have the premium feel you’d expect for such a considerable investment.

The twin-chamber design divides the glove into Warm and Dry sides – hence the Twin name – and both are waterproofed with Gore-Tex. Feel through the leather palm is better in the Dry side, and



though the Warm side is naturally bulkier, the well insulated lining feels good quality. Protection is superb, with a ceramic palm pad fending off our abrasion test, and a large knuckle protector that gives the best impact score of any glove tested here.

Ease of use is excellent too, with a handy tab on the cuffs to help pull them on, and solid Velcro restraints. The Held Twin has the full set of features anyone could expect from a winter glove, albeit at a price.

“The Held Twins performed exceptionally well in every one of our five tough tests”

RICHA ARCTIC

£69.99 SIZES M-3XL

www.nevis.uk.com

Abrasion	4
Impact	5
Warmth	5
Waterproofing	5
Road testing	4
TOTAL	23/25

The test’s giant-killers. Joint-second place overall and only a single point behind the winning glove – for less than £70. They lasted four times as long as the European standard in our abrasion test, and transferred less than a quarter of the maximum force allowed in the impact test. For protection they even out-performed the other two pricier sets of Richa gloves in this test. The Arctics may use a Hipora membrane instead of Gore-Tex but they still nailed our waterproof tests, while the tester found them “totally waterproof and warm enough through several long, wet journeys”. Impressive.

