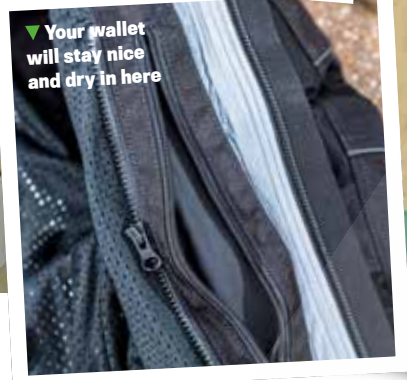


THERMAL LINERS

Some jackets and trousers come with zip-in thermal liners; some don't on the grounds many owners prefer to use their own, such as a heated jacket liner. But how many of us have thermal leggings?



▲ Cuffs are Velcro only, but no water ingress



▼ Your wallet will stay nice and dry in here



BENCH TEST

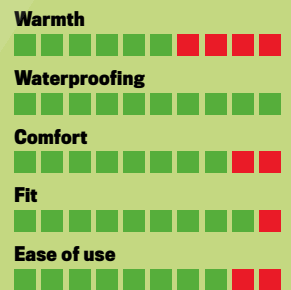
COLD TEST AT -2°C

Arm	11°C
Body	25°C

WATER TEST

Totally waterproof, including the pockets.

THE SCORES



Total 41/50

THE FACTS

Construction Cordura outer shell with 1500D Cordura reinforcement, Neoprene collar, stretch panels, laminated Gore-Tex membrane

Armour Elbows, shoulders, knees and hips, Level 2

Back protector? ✖ (£76.40 for L2)

Pockets 2 front, 1 rear, 1 on trousers (outside), 2 (inside)

Vents 2 back, 2 shoulders, 2 side, 2 thigh

Jacket waist adjustment None

Closure Zip, popper, Velcro collar (jacket), Velcro strap (trousers)

Liner fastening No liner (£109.99 extra)

Joining zips Long, with crotch strap

CE rating AA

Weight 4.5kg

2 Rukka Kalix 3.0 £1409.97
Needs extra insulation, but does a good job
www.bikerheadz.co.uk

The Rukka Kalix 3.0 is just more than 1kg heavier than the Richa and feels stiffer, with beefy Cordura reinforcement panels on the elbows, shoulders, hips and knees. But it's not bulky, and it's comfy in use - you know you're in very tough bike kit. There's no back protector, but shoulders, elbows, knees and hips have Level 2 D30 armour. Fit is snug, with long trouser legs that don't ride up on the bike, but it feels a bit baggy around the thighs. The jacket collar adjustment is Velcro and the jacket hem

has pleated zip vents, but no strap adjustment. There's no thermal liner either, so we include a Rukka-supplied Active R mid-layer and add it to the total price. Jacket cuffs are Velcro only, and multiple vents and pockets are weatherproofed. A Velcro crotch strap on the jacket zips together with the trousers, which have a Velcro waist loop with Velcro adjusters, high-grip panels on the backside, and more weatherproof zips and vents. In the rain test, water beads up and runs off nicely.

But without a trouser liner, the temperature drop is noticeable and gives the sensation of cold water passing through the material even though it isn't. But there's no leakage - all pockets, the chest and the crotch are totally waterproof. In the cold test, the jacket (even with an added mid-layer, which is more of a windstopper) and liner-less trousers feel noticeably cold after 20 minutes at -2°C. Body temperature is 25°C and minimum sleeve temperature is 11°C.

'Temperature drop is noticeable, but no leaks'

VERDICT
Built like a tank, totally waterproof, fit is pretty good and it's fully featured. But it lacks a decent thermal liner.