



CE Level 2
armour at the
hips and knees

Richa Carter jeans £129.99

‘Heavy but wholesome’

Tested by Gareth Evans for four months/2000 miles



I wear jeans when I ride on the road unless I'm absolutely sure I'm getting rained on, so these relatively robust items fit the bill perfectly. That's because they're heavy-duty enough to wear in lower temperatures – down to around 12°C – without feeling cold. In fitment terms they're great too, almost exactly mirroring the Levi's I wear when I'm not riding in both length and waist sizing. They have AA protection rating, so while not the outright best in terms of abrasion and tear resistance compared with AAA items, they do have Level 2 CE armour at the knees and hips. The outer shell is denim, while the yarn is a blend of Dyneema, Cordura and polyester, with a tiny bit of Elastane woven in. They won't stretch around my sporty Blade boots, though, which means I have to look a little silly if I want to wear those too. But then I wouldn't necessarily expect them to – I have some casual riding shoes for when I'm simply out for a gentle bumble. The seriously strong zip and large button make doing them up a joy.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.nevis.uk.com



Knox Scarlett Skinny Fit jeans MK2 £159.99

‘Great, but a bit sweaty!’

Tested by Saffron Wilson for nine months / 1685 miles



The Coolmax layer works well when you're on the road, but because they're partially lined with a layer of abrasion resistant Aramid, I personally found them a little too warm on summer days. But when there's a nip in the air, they are a great option. The extra lining also helps gain them an AA rating for protection. The stretch Cordura denim is lovely to touch and very comfortable to wear, but I found them slightly baggy on the thighs and at the knee (which gives ample room to pop in the included knee protectors). I'm not sure whether I should have got the size down, but they fit well at the waist.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.planet-knox.com



Oxford Super Leggings 2.0 £99.99

‘No fear of a muffin top’

Tested by Ali Silcox for 3 months/ 1500 miles



Getting riding jeans to fit has always been a nightmare because sizing is so out of step with non-riding gear. In 'normal' clothes I'm a size 12 with long leg length but over the years I've ended up with jeans ranging from 12 to 18, which does a lady's ego no good! It was like a breath of fresh air trying on these super-stretchy leggings because the sizing is accurate.

With aramid reinforcements, knee protectors and pockets for hip armour, they are CE approved but only to the lowest level (A) so they're best used for lower-speed urban riding. However, being made from stretchy material means they fit perfectly. There's a high waistband, so no awkward

gap between jacket and jeans, plus no fear of a muffin top. You can also purchase a belt connector so that you can zip them to your riding jacket. Front pockets are large enough to stow keys or a phone when you're off the bike. The leggings look stylish and can be worn with either short baseball-style riding boots or touring boots. They've been through the wash a few times and they haven't lost shape or colour.

They don't claim to be waterproof and I can absolutely confirm this is true. When I got caught in a shower, they absorbed water like a sponge. They come in a full range of sizes and three leg lengths, I opted for long and, for once, they're slightly too long. Also available in khaki, grey and burgundy.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.oxfordproducts.com



Roadskin Taranis Elite Riding Jeans £179.99

‘Perfect balancing act’

Tested by Mike Armitage for 12 months / 3000 miles



Riding jeans seem a cracking idea. You get protection while you're on the bike, yet they're more comfortable when you reach your destination. I've always found them a compromise, though. Get a pair that look like regular jeans, and you sacrifice safety; but going for proper protection means heavyweight linings, obvious seams and armour, and beer garden discomfort. But these genuinely do it all. They're single-layer denim with a slim straight-leg cut, barely weigh more than Levi's, have plenty of stretchiness, and show nothing to suggest they're riding clobber. Thanks to Kevlar in the weave they have the highest AAA protection rating, and they come with discreet hip and knee armour, which can be adjusted. I have my cake, and I can eat it.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
roadskin.co.uk



Resurgence New Wave Pekev Ultra MC Jeans £315

‘Comfortable, cool and safe’

Tested by Simon Relph for six months / 2000 miles



These are great jeans and have coped well with the recent warm weather. They are made from single-layer Pekev Ultra fabric and have been certified to the tougher CE Level 1 professional standard (meaning they exceed AAA performance). The makers claim they can withstand an 11-second slide. Impressive. For a bit of impact protection, they come with D30 IP Ghost CE Level 1 knee and hip armour which is only 5mm thick and very flexible. Comfortable, cool and safe. What's not to like?

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.resurgencegear.net