

TRIED & TESTED

MCN STAFF RATE THEIR RIDING KIT

★★★★★

2000 MILES



Keis G701S Shorty heated gloves £190

'Banish chilly digits forever'

Tested by Richard Newland for two months/1800 miles



Riding with cold hands is exceptionally dangerous. Numb fingers, cold muscles, and the pain of cold digits can all lead to distraction and even a loss of control. Heated grips are a good start – but heated gloves are a far more valuable and effective solution. I've used Keis G501, Furygan Heat Blizzard 37.5 and Dane Fyre gloves in the past – but these new G701S gloves are already hot (sorry) favourites. The S stands for 'Shorty', as they have no internal battery compartment and a shorter, narrower cuff – enabling them to easily slip inside your jacket sleeves. The supplied wiring harness connects the gloves to your bike's battery via supplied leads (or a separate Keis battery pack from £55, or a 12v plug-in power lead at £20) and the shorty design means that you can route all the wiring inside your jacket – banishing any external flappery – with just one connection from jacket to battery lead.

The G701Ss conform to the required EN 13594:2015 standard and are 1KP rated and once plugged in, there are three heat settings denoted by green, amber and red illumination of the power button on each glove. Progressive clicks let you cycle through the settings in order. I've used them down to -2°C (ambient) at prolonged motorways speeds and suffered no chills at all.

Construction is a Ballistic Spandex outer with a bonded Hipora waterproof / breathable membrane (no sweaty hands), there's a scaphoid slider, 3M Thinsulate insulation, a visor wipe and smartphone-friendly finger pads. Comfort is superb, protection is good, they're pleasingly devoid of bulk, and retain warmth when not plugged in. Apart from the cost – which is pricey, but entirely fair – and the green settings light being very bright at night, I can't find anything else to criticise. **Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★**
www.keisapparel.com



No flappy wires, just warm hands



An optional £55 battery pack is also available

PROS & CONS

- +** Warmth, comfort, safety and control for the whole ride
- Not cheap – but they're worth every penny for winter riders



Oxford Beast Ground Anchor £99.99

'Beast by name and by nature'

Tested by Saffron Wilson for six months



If you're looking for a substantial ground anchor to give you peace of mind in the garage, then the Beast is a great choice. This 4kg anchor is perfect for chunky chains and has double layered strength with a hardened steel construction which has received a Sold Secure Diamond rating, the highest rating possible. It's said to resist angle grinders, comes with anti-tamper fittings and can be fitted to concrete floors and brick walls. I personally popped it in my concrete floor with some heavy-duty drill bits borrowed from the neighbour and aside from creating the holes, it was easy to install. Although it's bigger than previous ground anchors I've used, it didn't impact on garage space too much and it's easy to manoeuvre a chain around and through.

SIX MONTHS

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

Held Storm Care kit £24.95

Tested by Jordan Gibbons for six months

Take care of your leather and it will take care of you, or something like that. This Storm Care kit from Held consists of the tools to do just that – a 225ml spray bottle to clean your leather kit, a 225ml spray bottle to moisturise and protect it plus a brush, that I have long lost somewhere in my flat. Quite simply it works great, returning much needed life and lustre to some of my well used gear. When the kit arrived, I went through pretty much everything leather I own and still have well over half of both bottles left.



Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.held.de