



Visin Heated Visor Insert from £179.95

‘Makes me feel a bit blinkered’



Tested by Justin Hayzelden for seven weeks

The Visin heated insert sticks to the inside of your stock visor and uses a transparent coating to allow electricity to pass across its surface, generating heat in the process.

It works incredibly well, quickly clearing and preventing condensation, even under extreme conditions. There are, however, drawbacks. Power is supplied from an umbilically linked control unit that weighs 275 grammes and is bulkier than two packs of playing cards. It's uncomfortable in a pocket and in a rucksack you can't reach the on/off button – although to be fair, it does run for over seven hours.

What I really don't like is how much vision the insert restricts outside of the heated area. When dicing with traffic on a mildly cold morning, I found that peripheral vision was reduced by 4cm at either side due to the heating element obstructing my view and an area, that is not covered by the heating element, misting up... effectively making me feel like I was riding in blinkers.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.heatedvisor.co.uk



Daytona Trans Tourman GTX £599.99

‘Boots that mean business’



Tested by Gareth Evans for six months

These hand-made German Daytona Trans Tourman boots sit right up in the stratosphere as far as touring footwear is concerned. They're unashamedly expensive, but have a spec sheet to match, with the very best safety ratings available and more adjustability than you'd expect from any boot, let alone ones without laces. I'm deeply impressed by their performance in all conditions, from scorching hot weather to wintry downpours, and you can't argue with their quality.

These boots look certainly look functional rather than fashionable and anyone who knows what they're looking at will know they mean serious business. They're designed for riding, and with that in mind the foot is tilted slightly inwards towards the bike for additional comfort on the pegs. They're not the best to walk in, feeling wide and a little clumpy, but they do have good arch support and there's no squeaking.

The venting and insulation are simply first class, making for fantastic long-distance performance in a range of temperatures. They've got a Gore-Tex Duotherm membrane that makes them very breathable, but they're also fully waterproof as far as my experience goes. I've ridden with them in torrid conditions and comfort has been beyond question.

The buckle, which is beefy enough to use easily with gloves on, can be tweaked for various foot widths, allowing a sort of custom fit. And the shins aren't forgotten either – the upper part of the Velcro holding the zip to the boot can be adjusted forwards and back to get the right width for your leg.

Sure, they're pricey, but they feel like they'd survive pretty much anything. I really like the zip-and-Velcro system to close the boot, because it feels solid and secure. When you pull these boots on it feels like you're getting ready for an adventure.

In protection terms, these boots feel so solid that I'm sure the road or bike would come off worse in a crash. The CE rating largely reflects this, with the higher Level 2 rating across the board. As long-distance touring companions go, you can't ask for more. They're comfortable, adjustable, safe and practical... albeit at a price.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.bikerheadz.co.uk

3500 miles ON TEST



Oxford Camping Chair £49.99

‘Incredibly simple to assemble’



Tested by Simon Relpy for one year

I have seen so many motorcyclists heading off up the motorway on their bikes, loaded up with their camping gear, neatly fixed on with the exception of one thing – a fold-up chair, as these can obviously be tricky to get safely in place.

Enter the Oxford Camping Chair. This ingenious little item folds up very small and comes with its own carry case and can be put together in under a minute (yep, I timed

myself). It weighs next to nothing (0.9kg), is surprisingly comfortable and, above all, will make you the envy of all your mates who are sitting on the wet grass.

The aluminium frame has elastic cord running through it, making it incredibly simple to assemble. Once the frame is pushed together, it just needs the polyester seat fitting on its four reinforced corners. Once this is done, sit down and relax! Packing it away afterwards is every bit as easy.

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



Alpine MotoSafe Race Reusable Earplugs £14.99

‘Give your lugs a good old wiggle’



Tested by Justin Hayzelden for three months

I've tried all kinds of earplugs, from foam disposables to bespoke custom jobbies, and these are by far the easiest to use. They come with a short plastic tube that makes sliding them into your lugholes a cinch, and allows you to give them a good wiggle to ensure they're seated correctly. I've found that they are comfortable to wear and offer a reduction in noise that keeps fatigue at bay. I'd gladly shell out £15 a couple of times a year on these, as the fact that they don't leave my ears ringing is the best indication that they're doing a good job.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.bikerheadz.co.uk

2400 miles ON TEST