

**TRIED & TESTED**

MCN STAFF RATE THEIR RIDING KIT



There's no fear of the bike hitting the deck

3 MONTHS



**Oxford Zero-G Headstock Stand (£139.99) & Paddock Stand (£99.99)**

## 'They're stands that deliver'

**Tested by Richard Newland for three months**



I'll never forget the crunch of bike hitting driveway, having gracefully toppled onto its side as the paddock stand it was residing on folded like wet cardboard. That was nearly 20 years ago, so what went wrong? A cheap, shoddy stand is what went wrong, and when faced with the lardy imposition of trying to hold a B-King (remember those?) aloft, it chucked in the towel and collapsed.

The remedy to this shock and horror is simple – don't buy cheap stands. That said, these Oxford Zero-G items are far from expensive, and they're fabulous value for money. Let's start at the back.

I have two bikes with double-sided swingarms (1986 GSX-R750 and a 2007 VTR1000 SP-2), and the rear stand works perfectly on both thanks a decently wide gate and the adjustable bobbin forks (Oxford will also sell you some L-cups if you don't have the option of fitting bobbins to your bike). The stands come flat-packed, but are a doddle to

assemble, and once tightly bolted together they're rock-solid. In fact, the rear is so secure that I have no qualms about leaving my GSX-R on it at all times in the garage. The dimensions and geometry mean it has decent leverage for an easy lift, the bobbin forks are nicely secure, the double twin wheels give fabulous stability and ensure the stand lifts straight, while the decently large wheel size means they roll with ease. The finish is great, the bolts all anodised black, and the oval tubing prevents rotation that could lead to brain-scarring memories.

The stand is rated to 300kg – so it's capable of securely taking the load of most normal motorcycles (everything but the biggest tourers and cruisers). With a 335mm pin height, the stand also gives enough lift to hoist the rear wheel well clear of the floor, making maintenance and dropping the wheel in and out, a breeze.

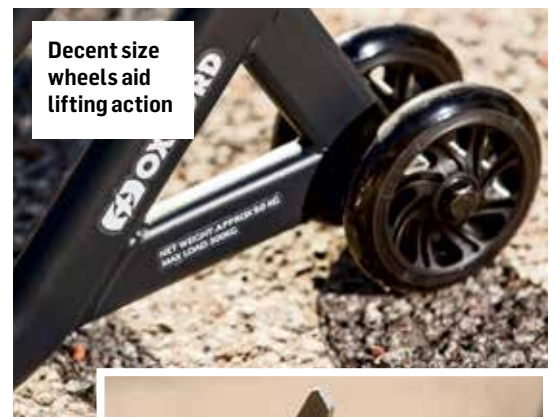
Also on test here is the Headstock Stand – your perfect workshop partner to enable you to work unencumbered on the front-end of your bike. Oxford do a normal front stand as well in the range, but a headstock stand enables

you to drop out forks, wheel, remove calipers etc with ease.

The quality is great, and the stand comes with five headstock pins (ranging from 13mm to 18mm) to ensure a securely tight fit under your headstock. But it's worth checking your bike's needs before you order, as some do need a bigger pin for a really secure fit. Swapping pins is a five-second job, and once inserted beneath the headstock, all the same benefits of ease of use and security as you get with the rear stand apply here, too. Great kit.

**Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★**  
[www.oxfordproducts.com](http://www.oxfordproducts.com)

Decent size wheels aid lifting action



### PROS & CONS

- +** Attractive, well built, sturdy, adjustable, trustworthy
- Bigger pins needed for the headstand on some bikes



Forks ensure a secure fit to bobbins