

‘Quality from the outset’

Richa Charlestone £369.99

www.nevis.uk.com

THE CLAIM “Authentic leather jacket with a contemporary look. Airtech Control System for controllable ventilation at key areas. Removable thermal lining and fixed mesh lining. High-end cow leather with D30 armour and back protector.”

THE REALITY This jacket from Richa feels heavyweight thanks to the thick cow hide but the leather is actually very soft and supple and it's comfortable in use, both on the bike and off. The thermal gilet makes it warm for chilly mornings but when removed, it is surprising light and airy with cooling air entering from various



locations. All the zips are YKK and there are plenty of pockets, including five on the outside and four inside. It's a lovely fit, letting you move around easily and it seems a real shame to take it out in summer and get it covered in dead bugs...

‘Proper go-anywhere tyres’

Metzeler Karoo 4 £300

www.metzeler.com

THE CLAIM “On the road, a stiffer carcass promotes line-holding and grip in lean. Scoop-shaped blocks maximise the effect on soft terrain.”

THE REALITY A proper 50/50 adventure tyre, these work very well on RiDE's Ténéré World Raid. Not quite as sweet-steering as the OE Pirelli Scorpion Rally STRs, they have more grip and feel on tarmac than they look like they would. On the trail, they're confidence inspiring; the extra side-grip over OE means hitting the side of a rut or soft sand isn't an automatic crash and when they lose grip, it's predictable.



‘Stiff but comfortable’

Road City boots £49.99

www.sportsbikeshop.co.uk

THE CLAIM “Stylish denim textile riding shoes with reinforced areas, non-slip sole and easy ingress loop.”

THE REALITY Like the Road mesh gloves we tried last month, these short boots are excellent value at less than £50 and come with a full 1-2-2-2 CE rating, indicating superior passes in all key areas. They have a denim-style finish and are fairly rigid with thin padding yet they are comfortable when on and flexible enough for walking around as well as on the bike. They are reassuring and with the kind of feel you get from boots costing much more than £50. Sizing is odd though; I usually take EU44 bike boots but had to go down to EU42 for these. They are a Sportsbikeshop exclusive however, so getting the right size and returns are very easy.

UNDER £100



Oxford first-aid kit £14.99

www.oxfordproducts.co.uk

THE CLAIM “Certified to DIN 13167-2014 standard, with hygienically sealed contents, it is ultra-compact and fits under most bike seats.”

THE REALITY Small enough to be stowed away on a bike or in a rucksack, this has most of what you need to patch someone up in a crash – and more importantly, an easy-to-understand first-aid manual to help you do it properly. We should all carry one – and learn to use it.



Twins Dual 5.0 headset £59.99

www.jsaccessories.co.uk

THE CLAIM “The Twins HF2 DUAL 5.0 Bluetooth Headset is designed for calls, music, and navigation info.”

THE REALITY This all-in-one headset is simple to fit but less so to use. Its operating button is on the mic inside your helmet, so it's easier if you use your phone controls or your vocal assistant. Sound quality is average and volume is on the low side, especially for motorway use.

Laser high-leverage pliers £32.93

www.toolconnection.co.uk

THE CLAIM “These heavy-duty combination pliers feature a double high-leverage design which reduces effort by up to 60%.”

THE REALITY While £33 is dear, these are more than ordinary pliers. The design may reduce effort but it also means, for the same effort, you get more force at the jaws. They grip like no pliers we have ever seen and there are wire cutters and long-nose versions available as well.

