

Diamond-rated protection

3 months ON TEST



No need to stow it in your pocket

Abus Granit Victory 68 X-Plus

Abus Granit Victory X-Plus £104.99

'Solid as a rock'



Tested by Ben Clarke for three months

The Abus Victory 68 X-Plus disc lock is a Diamond-rated security product that you can easily carry around with you – so why wouldn't you? In fact, Abus make this even easier to do by supplying a small carry pouch with Velcro straps to fix it to a bit of exposed frame should you wish. The lock itself feels really well-made with a sturdy mechanism that is smooth to operate. The bolt is 14mm and made from hardened steel but the design of the unit means that it is near impossible to get to it with a cutting device anyway.

The lock has a rubberised ring that makes it easy to get hold of when removing it and this also offers a little protection to the painted surfaces should you drop it. There are reports online of the unit seizing in place on a disc, but after three months of use and being left out in the rain, I haven't had any such issue.

Sure, if a determined thief with an angle grinder wants your bike, they will just cut away the section of brake disc where your disc lock sits, but that doesn't mean you should make life easier for them by not using one.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.abus.com



Suomy SR-GP £613.99

'Racy headgear for the road'



Tested by Joseph Wright for six months

The Suomy SR-GP helmet is a favourite among MotoGP and TT riders, but I wasn't sure how versatile it would be for everyday road use.

Although primarily designed for short race stints, this helmet defies assumptions about rider comfort. Instead of relying on soft foam and cushioning, it provides comfort through a sense of weightlessness. Weighing just 1.1kg with a low drag coefficient, it minimises fatigue during extended rides.

The helmet's only firm contact point is where the cheek pads conform to your cheekbones, offering support while eliminating pressure on the head's top and sides. This grip on your cheeks proves invaluable on the track, allowing effortless head movement.

Its exceptional 210-degree peripheral vision challenges the limitations of the human eye's 200-degree horizontal field of view. The vertical performance is equally impressive, even in a full tuck position, offering an excellent field of view. The visor resists scratching, fogging, and wind lift.

The helmet boasts five air intakes and three exhaust vents, effectively channelling cool air to prevent overheating during track sessions. The front vents provide ample airflow to your mouth and nose, ensuring comfort even during heavy breathing. However, the stiff mechanisms for adjusting vents, designed for high-speed stability, may pose a challenge for on-the-go changes.

With four shell sizes available, you can find the perfect fit, enhancing all-day comfort for both track and everyday use. The bold combination of yellow and green colours, coupled with aggressive design and futuristic aerodynamics, creates a striking appearance, particularly when paired with a black visor.

Priced at £613.99 this sports helmet is far from cheap but represents fair value and has proved lighter, quieter and more comfortable than my previous HJC RPHA-11 and AGV K5.

When contemplating this helmet, I initially questioned whether it catered exclusively to racing. However, I've come to realise that it's precisely the advancements in weight reduction, aerodynamics, and field of view that I, as a rider, truly value.

If you share my preference for prioritising performance and striking aesthetics over niceties and ease of use, then this helmet could be for you.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
reactiveparts.com

3000 miles ON TEST

Light but it's still protective

1500 miles ON TEST



Tucano Urbano Superleggero Down Jacket £134.99

'Warm gear for round-town riding'



Tested by Michael Neeves for one year

Tucano Urbano say this is the lightest CE-approved jacket you can buy. It might be featherweight, but it has also passed tests to resist tears and abrasions and comes with CE Level 1 shoulder and elbow armour. Its CE approval rating is A – the middle ground rating between AAA (best) and C (worst), so think protection more at commuting speeds, than anything higher. I combine it with an Alpinestars back protector or airbag jacket. It's still in perfect condition and with its

quilted, windproof inner, high neck and low waist, it's surprisingly warm for such a lightweight jacket. It's ideal for chilly autumn and spring days, although you'd want something more heavy duty for the depths of winter. I also regularly wear it out and about and with the body armour removed you'd never know it was a bike jacket, which makes it especially comfortable. I love its scooter-chic-meets-Italian-man-about-town quilted style, especially in this Airbourne Green. It's right up my strada. Decent price, too.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.tucanourbano.com



Oxford MagniMate £8.99

'No awkward moments'



Tested by Emma Franklin for six months

Over the years, I've amassed hundreds of free sidestand pucks from goodie bags and there's usually one knocking around in my rucksack. For the times I've been caught short I've resorted to supporting my bike's weight on a rock or crushed drinks can. However, the trouble with regular 'free' pucks (or using random bits of litter) is that they can be tricky to get into position. This is the problem that the MagniMate addresses – the robust construction means that it provides a highly stable base on all terrains, meanwhile the strong magnet self-locates onto your sidestand, meaning no awkward moments trying to kick the puck into place.

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

6 months ON TEST