

EDZ Innershell, £50



Tester Alison Silcox
Time tested Eight years/
5000 miles

What's good? This windproof top has to be one of my favourite pieces of kit. It's made from lightweight, breathable Pertex fabric, is very thin and can be stowed easily in a pocket or tankbag in case the weather turns cold. Worn as an extra layer it adds warmth without any bulk or bunching. The zip is on an angle at the neck so it's easy to access and doesn't get in the way of any jacket closures. The neck is also lined with a light fleece, making it comfortable and snug.

What's not? The only small fault is that the jacket should incorporate an integral storage pocket. The Innershell comes with its own storage pouch but I've managed to lose it! The price is a little high, but I've used it for over eight years so it's more than paid its way.

Contact www.edzlayering.com

Quality rating ★★★★★

Value rating ★★★★★



3000 MILES

Alpinestars Nucleon KR-R back protector £109.99



Tester Michael Neeves
Time used Nine months/10,000 miles

What's good? I've been wearing the new-generation Alpinestars back protector under jackets and leathers since last Spring, for road tests and racing. I also had a high-speed, tumbling track crash while wearing it and didn't suffer any injury. Over the years Astars have produced very thin back protectors, which you hardly know you're wearing and very thick ones that are too bulky under tight leathers. But this new Nucleon KR-R protector is the perfect depth for both comfort and protection. It's a long back protector that stretches down from the nape of the neck to the tail bone and the Velcro waist straps are adjustable up and down for the perfect fit. It's well made and nicely vented.

What's not? There are cheaper back protectors around, but it's worth its weight in gold when you see its imprint in the back of your leathers after a crash and realise what a top job it's done.

Contact www.alpinestars.com

Quality rating ★★★★★

Value rating ★★★★★



10,000 MILES

Knox Jacob Dry Inside Base Layer £54.99



Tester Tony Hoare
Time used Six months/1000 miles

What's good? Base layers are a good idea to wick sweat away from the skin and help us stay warm in winter. But polyester ones quickly get whiffy, while others are skin-tight and would be very flattering on someone with the athletic dedication to gain a six-pack. Sadly my athletic dedication runs out at lifting the ringpulls on a six-pack. That's where Merino-based layers like this are very useful. This one is made from a mixture of Merino wool, which won't soak up moisture, and synthetic fabrics. It works well at being breathable and keeping me warm and the casual fit means I don't look as though I'm in denial over my Olympic potential.

What's not? Can I really review a £55 long-sleeved top without making reference to the £55 pricetag? No, I can't. But it's very pleasant to wear and is made in Knox's factory in the Lake District, not out in the Far East.

Contact www.planet-knox.com

Quality rating ★★★★★

Value rating ★★★★★

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3 Held Wet Tour £34.99

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4 ARMR Moto WP Jacket £29.99

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