

KIT TESTED

LAUNCH
REPORT

'All-weather grip'

Michelin Road 5 £205.98 per pair (120/70x17 & 180/55x17)



Tester Dan Sutherland

Where Official launch test, Monteblanco, Spain

What's good? Using an all-new tread pattern, the Road 5 is claimed to disperse water more effectively than the old Pilot Road 4. The Road 5 also uses a dual compound on the front and rear, with a harder, longer lasting middle section and softer shoulders of varying rigidity for greater dry weather handling and stability. The 2CT front tyre features two types of all-silica compound – one for the middle 44% and another for the outer shoulders. At the rear, the 2CT+ is comprised of an all-silica crown, with the shoulders made of a slicker all-carbon black compound.

After a brief session around Monteblanco Circuit, Spain, as well as a challenging 75-mile road ride and a wet-weather-braking test, the tyre revealed itself to be incredibly capable, never once breaking traction in any scenario and allowing me to brake, turn and lean the bike over with confidence. On a sunny ride, the soft shoulders make it the ideal companion for animated riding, meanwhile the harder middle means they should hold up to commuting and motorway miles.

What's not? These tyres are hard to criticise and on the warm, winding roads of Southern Spain, they behaved faultlessly. Although performing well on the we did of the dry circuit, this is not a sports-focused tyre and your money would be better spent elsewhere if you have serious trackdays in mind.

Contact www.moto.michelin.co.uk

Quality ★★★★★

Value ★★★★★



Dual compound improves tyre life

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Improved compound and water shifting abilities



Among the pricier road tyres available

Dexter Izoard Track helmet £74.99



Tester Alison Silcox

Time tested 1500 miles/ four months

What's good?

At £74.99, the quality of finish and subtle paint scheme give this full-face polycarbonate lid the feel of a helmet with a far heftier price.

The brand is exclusive to Boston-based SportsBikeShop in the UK and, as with the previous Dexter lid I tested, it took very little breaking in. The washable liner has retained its plush feel, even after 1500 miles of wear, and the vents are well placed and easy to operate.

There's a ratchet-style strap and a drop-down sun visor and it comes with a Pinlock anti-fog insert included. For these reasons, it has been my go-to lid throughout winter.

What's not? For the price, there's not much to criticise on this helmet. If I was being really picky, the drop down sun visor (something I always look out for on a helmet) could do with being a few shades darker for very sunny days. I also tried to fit an intercom for a recent trip to France, but there are no recesses to fit the speakers in. That

said, using the intercom was a one off so it's not a massive issue for my everyday riding.

Contact www.sportsbikeshop.co.uk

Quality ★★★★★

Value ★★★★★



1500
MILES

Tucano Urbano Termoscud Pro leg cover £169.99



Tested by Michael Neeves

Time used 1500 miles/four months

What's good? Tucano

Urbano reckon their Termoscud Pro leg cover will keep you warm and dry whatever the weather – and they're right. Since fitting this 'scooter blanket' to my Yamaha TMAX DX, I've been able to wear summer riding attire, even when there's snow on the side of the road, so no more turning up at work dressed as the Michelin Man! Not only is it weatherproof, the canvas-like construction, with taped seams and quilted inner, is reassuringly heavy and durable, so you get a sense it will go on for more winters than me. It's a fitted,

bike-specific system (there's a full range for scooters and adventure bikes), so it's neat, straightforward to install and the inflatable side panels stop the sides flapping around at speed. I've been using the Termoscud in its full leg-covering configuration, which includes a seat cover, but it unzips into a smaller, more elegant summer version with a retractable rain cover for when the heavens open.

What's not? It's not cheap and it's tricky to get on the bike with the cover fitted. I almost have to slide 'in' to it like a car, but once aboard you're snugly cocooned in a warm blanket of luxury.

Contact www.tucanourbano.com

Quality ★★★★★ **Value** ★★★★★



1500
MILES