

HJC RPHA 10 Plus £299.99 (gloss white)



Tester Tim Thompson
Time used Six months
What's good? A good fit is the single most important consideration when buying a new helmet, and the HJC RPHA 10+ is the best-fitting helmet I've worn. Furthermore, after 30 years of wearing Arais, Shoeis, Sharks and other posh lids, it's also the most comfortable - especially with my increasingly bifocal specs on board. Unless it's very hot or raining hard (see below) I don't even notice it. That's why I wear an RPHA 10+. It's also light, quiet and, with this paintscheme designed by MCN Senior Designer Lee Laughton and executed by RichArt, looks pretty crisp too.
What's not? Ventilation is only average. Opening the top vents makes little impact. Rain water finds its way onto the inside of the visor too easily. So there's room for improvement.
Contact www.oxprod.com
Quality rating ★★★★★
Value rating ★★★★★

SIX MONTHS



Alpinestars 365 Gore-Tex gloves £169.99



Tester Michael Guy
Time used Four years/44,000 miles
What's good? My gloves of choice regardless of weather. Same protection, fit and styling of a sports glove with the benefit of being waterproof. The fact that your hands stay dry means that they can be worn practically all year round - hence their name. I've used them during the winter and with heated grips they suffice on short journeys but on longer runs and when the temperature plummets I revert to winter gloves, which always feel so cumbersome in comparison.
What's not? The palm of the left glove has ripped/worn out, but it's just a panel there for aesthetics and grip. The liner on the index finger of the left glove has worn out inside.
Contact www.alpinestars.com
Quality rating ★★★★★
Value rating ★★★★★

FOUR YEARS



Kriega R30 replacement liner, £10/free



Tester Andy Downes
Time used Six months/5000 miles
What's good? After more than five years and well over 50,000 miles my trusty Kriega R30 backpack started to let in water as a result of wear and tear to the waterproof liner. I phoned Kriega, who explained the liner was rated as a consumable part of the bag. If the liner (which easily Velcros in and out of the main bag) leaks on the seams Kriega will replace it for free. Otherwise it will cost £10 for a new one. While the original cost of the bag is high (an R30 is now £139) the fact the liner can be replaced has given me the potential of another five years of use for just another £10 spent.
What's not? Nothing. I love the R30; it's the best backpack I have used and giving it a new lease of life makes me very happy.
Contact: www.kriega.com
Quality rating ★★★★★ **Value rating:** ★★★★★

5000 MILES



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TOP FIVE WATERPROOF GLOVES UNDER £40
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- 1 Weise Grid WP £34.99**
 With a Hipora breathable waterproof membrane and Thinsulate thermal insulation, there's plenty of branded material in these budget gloves. There are also light-reflective piping strips and adjustable Velcro wrist retention.


- 2 Richa Carbon Winter Waterproof £39.99**
 Leather and textile gloves with a waterproof membrane and thermal lining to keep fingers from getting frosty. The leather palm is reinforced for extra protection and there is carbon protection for knuckles and a suede visor wipe to clear rain away.


- 3 Spada Storm WP £34.95**
 The price is low, but the spec isn't - pre-curved fingers reduce the breaking-in time, a waterproof membrane keeps out rain, reinforced leather palms boost protection with abrasion-resistant fabric and there's also a rubber visor wipe on the left thumb.


- 4 Furygan Raindrop Claw £39.99**
 Simple waterproof glove from French company Furygan is designed with comfort in mind, and there are few trinkets to draw attention away from the basics. It's a textile glove with a fully waterproof membrane and Velcro wrist fastening.


- 5 Held Faxon Waterproof £39.99**
 The low price doesn't mean glove specialists Held have skimped on quality. The Faxons have a synthetic leather palm and textile back, a cotton lining for comfort and a Hipora membrane. There's a rubber visor wipe and Scotchlite reflective piping.



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