



8800 miles
ON TEST

You can't go out dressed like that...

It's not fancy but works well

Oxford Advanced Base £24.99/£19.99

'Wicking gear for all-weather use'



Tested by Justin Hayzelden for 11 months

There's a lot to love about these Oxford Advanced base layers. The soft and stretchy

polyamide/polyester mix material makes them super comfortable, and in warmer conditions the wicking action works well to draw away sweat. That's provided there's plenty of airflow though, as in hot weather under leather the fabric's a bit too bulky to shed moisture adequately.

Thermal properties are good when temperatures drop, although not as effective as Merino wool or the more specialist technical fabrics. They've been washed almost as often as I've worn them and still look like new, with no loss of stretch or shape. The material dries really quickly, whether it's out of the machine or hung up after a sweaty ride, so there's been little chance for stitches or fabric to weaken or rot. As a durable do-it-all multi-season base layer, these offer great value. There are more tech-heavy options but these work well.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
oxfordriderwear.com



Not cheap but very good

Five HG Prime GTX heated gloves £359.99

'Marvellous mitts, much money'



Tested by Gareth Evans for five months

The Five HG Prime GTX gloves are packed with tech, comfort and build quality. They cost a

packet, but have a hunt around and there are attractive discounts available, lopping nearly £100 off the RRP.

From the moment I put them on, I was impressed by the comfort. The liner is brilliant, feeling soft but it never tries to escape the gloves if the sun magically appears and your hands start sweating. The membrane is Gore-Tex and bonded to the goatskin palm. During my time with them they've proved completely waterproof.

They're also highly adjustable, with a double-closure system to get them comfortable with your existing kit, and an over-size cuff zip that meant I could still wear my watch underneath it all.

It isn't all positive, though – I found the fingers slightly too padded and hence cumbersome on some bikes' switchgear. I also had variable success with the touchscreen-friendly fingertips.

After five months' use they feel good as new, with absolutely no indication they're going to come apart.

The heating elements feel well spaced, I love the clever left-handed operation of the buttons to operate its three-stage warming function, and the battery level indicators are clear and easy to understand.

If I were buying them, I'd probably wire them into the bike, but in order to do this you need a connection kit, which costs another £49.99.

Anyway, said batteries charge in four hours, and how long that lasts depends on the level of heating you're using. It can be as little as two hours on the hottest (60°C) setting, or as much as six on the lowest of the three (40°). I do wish they came with a UK plug, though.

If you're after the very best gloves for winter riding and your switchgear will accommodate them, the HG Prime fulfils the brief brilliantly. They're well-appointed, comfortable, weatherproof, built extremely well and aren't too heavy either.

Their major drawback is their price: even some of the firm's other gloves appear to be better value. Plus they're still only KP1 rated for safety in CE testing.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.five-gloves.com/



Bandit looks and modern performance

9 months
ON TEST

Simpson Venom Carbon £499.99

'Bandit looks give Venom extra bite'



Tested by Simon Relph for nine months

The original Simpson Bandit design did for the world of helmets, what the Ducati 916 did for motorcycles, it is an icon of its era.

The Simpson Venom Carbon has brought the essence of the Bandit bang up to date. The Carbon version weighs in at a mere 1528g and the visor is a substantial 2.5mm thick, which helps with rigidity when opening and closing.

It also comes with a Pinlock Max Vision ready to fit. The visor is kept clear with anti-fog air flow and is very easily removed

and refitted, with a useful flip-down sun-visor operated by a sliding catch on the side of the helmet. There are six vents at the front, with a further four on top and four exhaust vents at the back. The lining is fully removable for washing, the chin strap is well padded and is secured in place with double D-rings. The helmet passes ECE 22.06 regulations. It's not the quietest, so earplugs are a must.

Overall, it's a good-looking helmet that works well. Not cheap, but it packs attitude and I'd say it's worth the money.

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



It'll stash away in a pannier

Ring RTC4000 Tyre Inflator £59.99

'Small but packs plenty of puff!'



Tested by Ben Clarke for 12 months

The Ring RTC4000 is the lighting specialists' second most powerful cordless tyre inflator, with a 120W output and 120PSI maximum inflation pressure. The unit is pretty small (150mm x 95mm x 61mm) and isn't particularly heavy either (757g) so you can pack it in a big backpack or a pannier, but it's too chunky to keep under a seat.

You charge it through a USB-C port on the base and a full charge was more than enough to inflate the completely flat 200/55 x 17 rear tyre on the MCN fleet BMW M1000R after a puncture repair.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
ringautomotive.com

12 months
ON TEST