



Heavy-duty nylon construction is proving to be robust

3000 miles ON TEST

Fixes securely on bespoke mount

SW Motech Pro Day Pack Tank Bag £138.98

‘Small but perfectly formed’



Tested by Ali Silcox for nine months

As my 5ft 4in tall grandad always said, all good things come in small packages – and that’s definitely the case with the Pro Daypack Tank Bag, which holds between five and eight litres of gear. In reality, that’s my sandwiches, phone, wallet, keys... all the usual stuff. It’s great for passports or documents.

A tank mount is required, which is an easy fit: just replace the screws in the top of the fuel cap with the ones in the kit and the mount sits proud of the tank. The bag then fits in place; and to remove, just pull the red tabs to unhook the securing mechanism. Well thought-out, and quick and easy to use.

A rain cover is included but I managed to lose mine on an autobahn last year. That said I’ve found the bag to be perfectly showerproof, so it has never let in water.

I like the fact that it’s not model-specific; I’ve used it on a couple of my bikes. You do need a mounting kit for each, though, because fuel cap sizes aren’t universal.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★ sw-motech.co.uk



Great spec, especially for the price

RST TracTech Evo 5 CE £169

‘Sporty RST seems a safe bet’



Tested by Dan Sutherland for two months

The TracTech Evo 5 is RST’s most advanced sporty road textile jacket, featuring the same level-two armour in the shoulders, elbows, and back as the firm’s leather TracTech garments.

There’s a respectable AA safety rating overall, with a polyester outer, hard plastic shoulder armour mimicking the brand’s track-spec leathers, and even a SinAqua waterproof membrane plus removable thermal liner.

You also get twin front zips, multiple vents, subtle reflective details, six pockets and a 360-degree connecting zip for a pair of matching trousers. For less than £170, I think that’s very decent value.

Out on the road, it’s very comfortable too – providing plenty of warmth during our chilly start to the ‘summer’ riding season. I’ve had to adjust both the arms and waist quite tightly to fit my weedy proportions, but once sorted it has been spot-on.

That standard-fitment level-two back protector is a nice touch, but I now use the jacket with a different chest- and back-protecting vest for slightly more protection, but also a little more warmth on my torso during longer rides.

Elsewhere, the cuffs can be fastened tight enough to tuck inside a sporty glove, and the pockets are good and roomy. I’ve done most of my riding on sportsbikes, and the TracTech doesn’t ride up my back once I’m hunched into position – that’s a big plus.

The sporty yet subtle design of the jacket does mean it should fit with almost any kind of motorcycle genre and could be a great shout for those of you lucky enough to have more than one bike at home.

I’ve also tested the Evo 5 in continuous rain, during a 200-mile motorway run to Heysham on the Lancashire coast. I remained nice and dry all the way, although the front pocket did get noticeably wet. So, if you know you’re going to get rained on, it’s best to avoid storing things like mobile phones here (like I did...).

I should also point out that these were only drizzly conditions, so it may have performed differently in a heavy downpour. The jury is also out on how well it will keep me warm when the temperature drops, and how cool I’ll stay when the proper summer sunshine finally arrives. I’ll do a follow-up report if/when that ever actually happens!

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★ rst-moto.com

1000 miles ON TEST



You may even forget you’re wearing them...

1000 miles ON TEST

Five RS1 £99.99

‘Super-cool for summer’



Tested by Ben Clarke for one year

If hot hands are a problem for you, these gloves are the answer. They’re extremely lightweight, they’re just as comfy as motocross gloves and they use a scooped knuckle protector design to channel cooling air on to the backs of your hands. Add to that areas of breathable spandex and perforated leather and you have gloves that are as comfy in hot weather as riding with bare hands.

Five have used single- or double-layer goat leather in all the places you’re likely to need it

should you have a tumble, plus a hard palm slider and the aforementioned knuckle protector. It’s a smart bit of design work that would very likely protect you in a low-speed crash; but I’m not sure how much protection you’d get in a higher-speed slide down the road. They’re better than purely off-road gloves by a country mile, though, and infinitely preferable to ditching the gloves altogether. The touchscreen system on the forefinger and thumb is also the best I’ve ever used and makes satnav or phone adjustments a cinch.

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



Powerful and well-made (just like the jetwasher...)

Clarke Jet 9500B £275.98

‘Powerful and quiet’



Tested by Michael Neeves for two and a quarter years

Unlike cheaper, more ‘plasticky’ jetwashers I’ve owned (and worn out) this is made of sturdier stuff. It’s heavy (21.6kg), which gives it a feeling of sturdiness; and the main unit, hose, reel and gun are all superb quality. With its 2400W motor and 130bar working pressure it’s plenty powerful, but quiet enough not to wake the neighbours on a Sunday morning. It’s recently developed an intermittent fault; with too much tap pressure the jetwash pulses and eventually trips the fuse in my garage, so I have to be careful how much to turn on the tap. It’s out of its 12 months guarantee, but this test sample is from Machine Mart, who plan to take it away for inspection.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★ machinemart.co.uk

27 months ON TEST