



Taller, wider and perfect for a quiet ride

5 MONTHS

Wunderlich Mammoth K1600GT screen £229

'Turbulence-free bubble'

Tested by Richard Newland for five months / 6000 miles



BMW's K1600GT boasts a chunky screen, which sails up and down at the push of a button but despite that, I find it impossible to achieve a clean and quiet airflow. So, I've been testing this Wunderlich screen from BMW specialists Nippy Normans – and it's an absolute ear-saver. The TUV-approved 5mm thick Lexan material is crystal clear (unless you go for the tinted option) and distortion-free. The shape – which is both marginally taller than the stock screen, and noticeably wider – has a significant impact on cleaning up the airflow, as well as filling-in the V cut-out at the top of the OE screen. The result – which is its biggest benefit – is that you can easily find a height at which the deflected airflow creates a turbulence-free bubble. The increased size appears to have no impact on the performance of the electric screen mechanism and there are no unwanted effects on stability.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.nippynormans.com



9 YEARS

Oxford Aluminium folding ramp £159.99

'This ramp has risen to the challenge!'

Tested by Simon Relph



I have had the same VW Caddy pick-up for 30 years and use it for carting bikes around with the help of a home-made ramp constructed from two pieces of scaffold plank and a pair of flat steel hinges. Just like Trigger's broom it has had four new hinges and three new planks, but apart from that it's the original one!

But I have not looked back since I got this folding ramp some nine years ago. Made from lightweight aluminium, it's easy to lug about, but still strong enough to take the weight of a bike up to 340kg.

The ramp is 11in wide, so there are a good few inches either side in case you find yourself deviating off course as you wheel the bike back down again. The other plus when rolling a bike back down the ramp compared to my makeshift wooden one is grip; if I use the front brake to slow things down a bit, thanks to the design of the rungs, the tyres do not slip.

I have an old Velocette with very little ground clearance, so it tends to hit the underneath as it is pushed up some ramps and it can beach itself. The Oxford ramp is 7ft long, so it provides a nice slow incline and because the PVC-coated resting forks are much thinner than the rest of the ramp, there is much better clearance, so no more beaching.

This is a well-made and well-designed bit of kit! When it is folded up there is a Velcro type strap to hold it firmly in the folded position, just a word of warning though, mind your fingers when you're closing the ramp up, it can bite if your fingers are in the wrong place!

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



20K MILES

Alpinestars Vega v2 Drystar gloves £99.99

'Strike the perfect balance'

Tested by Michael Neeves for two-and-a-half years



Made from a mix of leather and textile with protective plastic palm and knuckle sections, they're medium thickness, so offer a nice balance between a full-on bulky winter glove and a lightweight summer item. Often, it's hard to feel a bike's controls with thick winter gloves, or even the benefit of heated grips, but you can feel everything with these, which is what I like the most. I use them just about the whole year round, unless it's scorching hot, or bitingly cold and

having a leather, rather than bulky plastic wrist section lets them slide easily under a jacket cuff. They're showing few signs of wear and everything from the Velcro fasteners to the stitching is still ship-shape. Quite often with winter gloves their inner waterproof membrane can get loose over time, but the Drystar lining has stayed firmly in place. Alpinestars have replaced them in their range with the Andes V3, but they're still around in online retailers for as little as 60 quid, which makes them a proper bargain.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.alpinestars.com



DXR Winter Carbon CE leather gloves £49.99

'Great gloves for under £50'

Tested by Ali Silcox for nine months



These are keenly-priced, at under £50, and are ideal for cooler rides. With a leather outer, they have a Thinsulate thermal liner and a membrane, that's both waterproof and breathable. I've ridden in cold and damp conditions and they've been comfortable and kept my hands dry. And, unlike some winter gloves, they are not too bulky. They are approved to CE Level 1 and have hard knuckle and finger armour, plus extra protection on the palm. I'm a cuff-over-sleeve kind of girl and I do have a couple of criticisms – the cuff is slightly too short, leaving a small draught around the wrist; my other slight moan is that I'd prefer the left thumb visor wipe to be on the forefinger.

2000 MILES

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.sportsbikeshop.co.uk