



Stubborn bolt?
Apply the heat

Five months
ON TEST

There's no need
to strike a match

Sealey Maxi Butane Heating Torch £82.74

'Reach for the heat'



Tested by Simon Relph for five months

I have been taking motorcycles apart for years and if there are eight identical bolts to take out, why is it always the very last one that won't budge? It's at this point that I tend to reach for the heat! Heating and cooling are great for expansion and contraction of metal. Add a bit of penetrating oil and a bolt that would not budge is soon turning freely.

The Sealey Maxi Butane heating torch comes as just the torch head which is designed to be used by plumbers and the like. I had to add the butane bottle, which are available in various sizes.

Simply attach the self-sealing bottle and you are ready to go. There is a dial on top to adjust the size of flame and a push-button Piezoelectric ignition to light the torch. The torch, which comes with a three-year guarantee, is made from an impact resistant plastic with a stainless-steel nozzle with allows the flame to reach up to a maximum of 1300°C. It has coped very well so far with all of my repair jobs and is a great addition to my motorcycling toolkit.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.sealey.co.uk



Shorties for
the long haul

TCX Jupiter 5 Gore-Tex Boots £199.99

'Short and sweet'



Tested by Justin Hayzelden for eight months

Short boots are all about comfort and versatility, and the TCX Jupiter 5s score full marks for both. I've worn them on commutes to the office, pounded around Brands Hatch all day as a spectator and completed an eight-hour stretch on a sports-tourer, barely aware they're on my feet. Ortholite insoles make the footbed as comfy as a pair of slippers, providing cushioning on the pegs and when walking.

A Gore-Tex membrane keeps moisture moving the right way, and my feet have remained dry in the rain and sweat-free in summer. It helps regulate temperature in cold weather too. Grippy 'Groundtrax' soles prevent any slippage on foot controls, even when wet, and make for a confident plant on tarmac too.

In terms of wear and tear, there's very little to talk about. There is some light scuffing from general use, but that's about it. There's barely even any wear on the gear-shift pad.

The CE certification on the label is 1-1-2-1 WR, denoting a short boot, with basic passes for abrasion resistance and transverse rigidity, a superior pass for impact cut and water resistance. External PU protectors enshroud the heel and malleolus, both of which are thickly padded on the inside and there's a reinforced internal toe box too. The overall construction feels strong, and the closure keeps them close to the foot, so I'm confident that the Jupiter 5 would offer significant protection if it came to it.

The only gripe I have about the boots is with the laces. The thread loops have a fabric covering, which proved to be abrasive against the original set of laces and wore through one in a matter of weeks.

Almost £200 puts these boots in a premium price range, however, given the performance and build quality, you do get what you pay for. While protection may not be top drawer in every category, they are comfortable and, laces aside, should last a long time. If you're looking for a touring boot that gives the versatility for exploring on foot, or a commuter boot that you can wear all day long, the Jupiter 5 is a sound option.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
nevis.uk.com

2100 miles
ON TEST



You get a shine... eventually

One month
ON TEST

Silverback Silky Milk Xtreme £12.99

'Needs elbow grease to shine'



Tested by Steve Herbert-Mattick for one month

Being made from inert, biodegradable materials, this bike polish puts a big green tick in my environmentally conscious box.

It smells pleasant, too. The trigger bottle is an excellent design where you press down with your thumb rather than squeeze with your fingers. It's a light and easy press that fires a generous mist.

The instructions state to coat your bike in spray, leave it to dry naturally and buff with

a microfiber cloth. The first buffing left the glossy black paint of my Tracer 9 GT+ a smearsy mess. Same with the second go. The third attempt cleared it and left a truly deep and lustrous shine. But how much of the claimed protective micro layer remains on the surface of the bike after so much vigorous rubbing is anyone's guess.

I used about one fifth of the polish in a single clean on the Yamaha, making the cost work out at around £2.60 per wash.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
silverbackxtreme.com

Take the chill
out of winter



Zerofit Heatrub Ultimate Socks £25

'Get happy feet'



Tested by Saffron Wilson for 20 months

If you're a fan of toasty toes then you can't go far wrong with a pair of these Zerofit Heatrub Ultimate Socks. At £25 they are reasonably priced for a product that should last for a few winter riding seasons. The fabric is not only soft but it's also thick and hard-wearing.

I've used this pair for almost two winters, on and off the bike, and the material still feels comfortable and cosy, even after multiple washes. The 'nano pods' (little rubber circles) on the sole are good for providing a little more grip, but can get snagged when you are pulling on boots. It's worth noting that the newer knee-height socks do not feature them, so may be easier to live with.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
zerofit.co.uk

1318 miles
ON TEST