

TRIED & TESTED

MCN STAFF RATE THEIR RIDING KIT



Versatile gear that works on and off the bike

2000 MILES



Italian style and rugged construction



TCX ClimaTrek Surround GTX boots £199.99

'All the boots you'd ever need'

Tested by Emma Franklin, for four months 2000 miles



As it's designed to work in harsh environments, motorcycling kit has a natural crossover with clothing and footwear for other outdoor pursuits, like hiking, climbing and running. As such, we're now seeing many biking brands create multi-sport products, stuff that's been designed primarily as biking clobber, but which also works for other leisure pursuits. It's the 'Wash & Go' philosophy: Why take two bottles into the shower?

These TCX boots are designed to be just that. Fundamentally, they're a pair of casual-style biking boots, featuring a fairly-rigid sole, protective toe cap, heel cup, padding at the ankles and abrasion-resistant outer. And, when worn on a bike, they do feel secure – there's a nice firm fit, as well as good peg feel.

But the most eye-catching feature, arguably, is the sole which uses proprietary Gore-Tex technology developed for the outdoor leisure sport market. The vented sole works in

tandem with the internal Gore-Tex membrane to boost breathability by improving airflow at the footbed – something which is traditionally a problem when making breathable footwear. The result is impressive. I wore these boots throughout this year's scorching summer and my feet were always sweat-free and comfortable – noticeably so.

Added to this is their overall off-bike comfort. Featuring an internal 'OrthoLite' sole, as many of TCX's casual boots do, they're as comfortable as trainers and you wouldn't think twice about wearing them all day. Fit is true to size if slightly on the wider side of normal, which is another boost to their comfort levels.

Although probably targeted at urban commuters, I think they would be brilliant for touring or even adventure riding, thanks to their rugged GroundTrax outer sole. Highly treaded, it provides brilliant grip for wandering up rocky trails or across muddy fields and, when you combine that with the all-day on-bike/off-bike comfort, breathability and waterproofing (that is, as long as your trousers

adequately cover the tops), as well as nice styling, too – they could be all the boots you'd ever need to take on a touring holiday.

Although the £199.99 price is quite high, you are getting a quality and versatile piece of Gore-Tex footwear that you can – and will – wear for other pursuits. This is the women-specific version, in sizes EU35-42, and as such features rather jazzy gold-trimmed laces. The men's version is available in a more muted grey colour, sizes EU 38-47. **Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★**
www.nevis.uk.com



Gearchange pads on left and right

PROS & CONS

- +** Supreme comfort, genuine versatility, Gore-Tex tech
- Laces – why not a more modern Boa closure instead?



Clever vents in the sole really work