

Nobody wants flies on their XSR900 GP

2 years ON TEST



Spray on, wipe off. Sorted

Muc-Off Waterless Wash £15

'Easy, effortless bike cleaning'



Tested by Carl Stevens for two years

Although I do enjoy the sight of a clean bike, I'm not one for spending hours achieving perfection with a piece of rag and a bottle of polish – especially as I still don't have a pressure washer at home. That's why the waterless wash from Muc-Off has found a permanent spot in my garage, as it does a good job of getting the usual dirt and flies off without too much effort or time. It comes with a handy spray cap that has two settings which makes it easy to cover certain areas quickly, and it doesn't need too much liquid to cover a large area. All it takes is a few minutes for the solution to soak in and work its magic before a wipe down. The resulting cleanliness is seriously impressive, especially for such a quick and easy job. Sure, it's not going to give showroom levels of shine, but it performs well enough to use on its own, without leaving any streakiness or stickiness. Thanks to the decent bottle size, it lasts a good while too.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.muc-off.com



SHAD SH38X expanding panniers £576.99 (+ fitting kit £203.99)

'Smart panniers are top boxes'



Tested for three months by Steve Herbert-Mattick

If you're looking for quality luggage with a lower price than factory options, the new SH38X boxes from Spanish specialists SHAD promise a compact but expandable solution.

They feel strong and well-made. The finish is excellent, with perfect shut lines and the brushed aluminium panels add a touch of class. The mounting bracket (available separately) is easy to fit, with clear instructions and seems robust but, despite only seeing rain twice, paint has flaked from one of the welds, revealing rust below. Everything lines up as it should, on my 2024 Honda Africa Twin at least. A chunky handle makes them easy to carry – even maxed out to their 10kg load capacity.

Locking the panniers to the rails is easy, with rubber-lined brackets on the boxes and chunky clips to secure them in place. Locking the cases also locks them to the frame. Tidy. SHAD claim to fit an XL ECE 22-06 modular helmet inside, but my medium 22-06 full-face helmet is a bit of a squeeze. Internal nets keep gubbins from spilling all over the floor when you open them, and they come with a spare lock barrel so you can key match with a top box if you opt to add one later.

On the bike – well, this bike certainly – they sit very wide, even when collapsed. When expanded (which increases the volume by 40%) they're over 20cm wider than the 'bars which causes filtering concerns. The Africa Twin's grunty twin and huge frontal area mean you experience little drag, if any, and they don't seem to unsettle the bike, but they'd be better suited to a machine without a high-level exhaust. The expanding mechanism is well designed; three locking catches release the 'lid' of each box and while wiggling it to its full 70cm extension is a bit of effort, the seals are good enough that there's no water ingress, even in heavy rain, expanded or collapsed.

They're honestly excellent; sturdy and well-made. They look smart, are easy to fit and perform flawlessly, and keenly priced too. I highly recommend them.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
shad.co.uk

1100 miles ON TEST

No more wind in the hair then



Hightail Hair Protector £50

'No more helmet hair for me'



Tested by Charlotte King for four months

The Hightail is a clever, yet simple, helmet accessory for keeping long hair neat and tangle free. You attach it at the back of your lid using the primer and adhesive strips provided, and with the help of a handy YouTube video accessed via the QR code in the box. Leave it for a day or so to cure fully and then you are good to go. Clip on the hair snood, pop your helmet on and simply twirl your hair up into

the elasticated pouch and off you go. When you arrive, take your helmet off and your hair falls elegantly down with a headshake just like in the movies. When it came to removing it to swap helmets, I found that a hairdryer, plastic card and some cooking oil took the adhesive right off, leaving my helmet unscathed underneath. I have marked it down two stars for value only because I think it's a little bit pricey at £50 but it's a cunning piece of kit.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
hightailhair.com



Oxford Heritage Roll Bag 30L £99.99

'Classic practicality'



Tested by Dan Sutherland for two years

I purchased this waxed cotton luggage bag as an easy-going storage solution aboard my own Royal Enfield Classic 350. I wanted something practical, that was also going to look the part and fit in with its 1960s looks. The Heritage Roll Bag delivered on the brief, taking clothes for a rider and pillion, plus a spare pair of shoes, a disc lock, and some toiletries for a few nights away. It straps neatly onto the bike's rear racking with a Velcro fastener on the bottom of the bag, and is then held securely by four webbing straps. When you reach your destination, it comes off in a matter of minutes and can be carried like a conventional holdall.

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

2000 miles ON TEST