



Roadside fixes made easy

5000 miles ON TEST

Oxford Toolkit £39.99

‘Small, but perfectly formed’



Tested by Michael Neeves for 18 months

Whether it's to nip-up a flappy mirror on a road test, twiddle suspension adjusters on a trackday, or tightening a loose bolt on a big tour, I'd be lost without taking a handful of tools with me. I used to do just that and stick them in a carrier bag, but not since I've been using Oxford's 27-piece Toolkit Pro.

First and foremost, it's light (500g), small (185 x 105 x 40mm) and easy to carry. It's a bit too big to fit under the seat of most bikes but slips almost unnoticed into a rucksack or luggage. The tools include an adjustable spanner, ratchet, a selection of sockets, screwdrivers, snips, pliers and a handy a bunch of Allen keys.

They're all superb quality and although they're small, they're perfectly formed and a godsend when you need them. They're all neatly housed in a hard zip-up storage case that has enough room left over to hold a few extra small tools. For a penny under £40 it is an affordable and practical addition to your riding kit whether it's a day out, commute or a longer touring trip.

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



Best to put it inside the tent...

Thermarest NeoAir Topo Luxe Sleeping pad £200

‘Sleep like a baby’



Michael Guy for nine months / 10 nights

Getting a good night's sleep when on a motorcycle trip is essential and a key element to the success of the trip itself.

I've had a number of Thermarests over the past few decades and what started out as a thin, blow up bed, which didn't pack away particularly well has now evolved in to a seriously impressive piece of technology designed to enable you to sleep in comfort, stay warm and take up minimal space in your luggage.

So far I've used the latest Thermarest NeoAir Topo Luxe Sleeping pad for ten nights and have to say I'm seriously impressed. The stand-out feature is the thickness of the sleeping pad when inflated. It measures 10cm or 4in thick, which means it offers a genuine level of comfort and support whether you are a back or a side sleeper. I've opted for the regular length, wide version 183cm x 10cm. There is also a standard regular, large and extra large to choose from.

This thickness combined with the 50D polyester material gives it an R rating of 3.7 which means it is suitable for summer, spring and autumn camping.

It comes with own inflating sack, but it's as easy to blow it up with your mouth. There is a one way in and one way out valve meaning it is just as easy to deflate when you're packing up.

One of the most impressive things is just how small it folds up when you need to pack it into your luggage – measuring just 29 x 15cm for the regular wide it's smaller than a traditional foam roll up matt, but in a completely different league when it comes to warmth and comfort. It also comes with a repair kit, is made in Ireland and has a lifetime guarantee.

In fact the only downside is the price. With an RRP of £200 (although a google search will show you can get it for close to £150) it's not a cheap bit of kit, but it's hard to put a price on a good night's sleep.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.thermarest.com

10 nights ON TEST



CE Level 2 adds confidence

1000 miles ON TEST



Comfortable in all weathers

TCX Blend 2 GTX £219.99

‘Look like just a normal human...’



Tested by Nye Davis for six months

The TCX Blend 2 GTX have been all-day comfortable, whether on two wheels or my own two feet.

There's plenty of protection for riding at the less extreme end of the spectrum while allowing you to look like a normal human being – rather than a Power Ranger. That said, there's little to stop ankle hyperextension.

The Gore-Tex membrane has never failed, and with an aggressive tread pattern, they've remained unfazed by any conditions.

Comfort has been superb too, with the lining maintaining a supple feeling. They've managed to strike a perfect balance between warm enough in winter, while not cooking you in summer.

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

1500 miles ON TEST

‘Vintage looks, modern protection’



Tested by Phil Clarke for six months

Urban motorcycle boots are an incredibly popular style for riders, and Oxford have updated their Merton boots hoping to capture those vintage vibes without you shelling out the shillings for them.

The resulting Merton 2.0s certainly fit the bill as a pair of budget Doc Marten's for riding in. Although they scuff easily, I think it creates a grungy patina that suits the style, and aside from that you can't tell they're actually motorcycle boots at a glance.

For me they were very uncomfortable at first, but after breaking in they got much better (almost overnight). I'd consider them averagely comfy now, though a bit too stiff if you are having to do a lot of walking.

They earn a CE Level 2 pass for all but abrasion resistance, and feel quite protective for an urban boot. The waterproofing does leave a lot to be desired though, as they consistently leak through the seams, leaving me with damp toes during heavy rain. But overall, not bad for the price.

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