



All the weight is held close to your body

26K miles ON TEST

Roll-top pod is detachable

## Kriega R8 waist pack £139

**‘It’s been across the deserts...’**



**Tested by Justin Hayzelden for 18 years**

This astonishingly tough piece of kit has been through some of the most extreme conditions that I’ve ever ridden in, and although showing the odd minor sign of wear, it’s still fully functional and ready to be called into action at the merest whiff of an adventure.

The R8 is made up of two separate bags – one main unit, which houses a tool roll, and a smaller detachable pod that has a roll-top compartment with removable waterproof liner. All in there’s around 8 litres of storage space, which fully utilised can add a fair bit of weight, but it’s all kept close to the body, so you don’t really notice it.

The secure fit is thanks to Kriega’s special tensioning system, which, once set, never lets the waist strap sag. There’s also a generously padded area for where it sits on the lower back. My R8 has been across deserts, through jungles and up mountains (and back down again) – it’s the perfect travelling companion for off-piste adventures.

**Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★**  
kriega.com



AA rated and they look good

## Roadskin Bronte Leggings £149.99

**‘Banishing the Muffin Top’**



**Tested by Al Silcox for three months**

My riding career has spanned more than 20 years and during that time motorcycle clothing, particularly for ladies, has improved beyond recognition. I’ve been known to wear my stone-washed, denim, Levi 501s (think female equivalent to Nick Kamen in the launderette circa 1985) to ride in but always feel a little vulnerable, so the evolution of the riding jean has been very welcome.

Over recent years I’ve taken to wearing riding leggings or jeggings, being made from Aramid or Kevlar lined stretch fabrics, they are more forgiving and far easier to size than a traditional riding jean. And being a lady of a certain age, I find nothing beats an elasticated waist to hide an ever-increasing muffin top.

I’ve been impressed with the quality and styling of these Roadskin Bronte leggings and over the three months of use, they’ve proved comfortable and easy to wear. Fully Kevlar lined and AA-rated, they are super stretchy. They have CE Level 2 knee and hip armour; the knee armour pockets are height adjustable, so they sit in the correct position.

With a short connecting zip, sewn into the waistband, you can attach to most jackets, avoiding any nasty draughts. I found the body size came up slightly smaller than my normal jeans and I opted for one size up, in contrast the leg length is over generous. It’s not a complaint by any means, as I regularly have the opposite issue, so to have a little bit too much material around my ankle has proved to be a novelty. There’s an elasticated stirrup, to hook under my foot and inside my boot, so there’s no fear of the leggings riding up.

Two deep front pockets are great for house keys and while the two rear pockets look great, I’d never put any items in them while riding, for fear of losing bits on the move.

These are more expensive than other popular brands I’ve worn, so have been slightly marked down from a value perspective, but that said they don’t feel over-priced and the quality is right up there.

**Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★**  
www.roadskin.co.uk

1000 miles ON TEST



Secure and it’s never leaked

3000 miles ON TEST

Fitting options to suit most bikes

## SW-Motech Universal GPS kit + phone case £65

**‘Great value and versatile’**



**Tested by Steve Herbert-Mattick for eight months**

Whether mounting to your ‘bars, mirror stem or headstock, this kit has a wide variety of fitting options to suit most bikes and has clear instructions for each. The case is well made and locks securely with a quarter-turn, so it’s easy to mount and remove.

Internal foam padding and adjustable hook and loop straps mean it’ll fit a variety of phones – even with cases fitted.

It’s versatile and great value but screen

protectors on some handsets affect the touch functionality through the case’s window, which itself can reflect glare in strong sunlight, making it hard to see your screen. It can also steam up if it’s cold, raining and you’re charging your device (so generating heat), causing both moisture worries and visibility problems. Sold as waterproof, if you want to charge on the move you need to cut the slot open, making it no longer technically waterproof. But it’s never leaked.

**Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★**  
www.sw-motech.co.uk



Responds well to probing questions...

## Draper tyre tread depth gauge £14.99

**‘I’m feeling deeply groovy’**



**Richard Newland for five months**

I’ve had a pencil-style depth gauge for about 40 years, but never really trusted it was accurate, so I’ve embraced the digital era and bought this Draper digital unit so I can be accurate to an unnecessarily detailed ±0.01mm (or 0.00039”). It’s superbly simple to use. Supplied with a battery (it uses the easily available SR44) all you need to do is turn it on, ideally calibrate it each time on a flat surface by pressing the ‘Zero’ button, then extend the probe and locate it at the lowest point in the tread, then push main body down until it’s flat on the raised tread. Et voila, one digital read-out (in metric or imperial) of the depth of tread available.

**Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★**

**www.draper-tools.com**

5 months ON TEST