



Smartphone-friendly (some of the time)



1000 MILES

Furygan Dirt Road mens' gloves £84.99

'Comfy but not perfect'

Tested by Gareth Evans over 1000 miles



These have been terrific company as I've been engaged in learning about life with sportsbikes. That's because they're so easy to live with. Furygan claim there are six different technical materials used in their construction, but basically it's a mix of goat leather and textile which blends to provide an extremely comfortable glove. In particular I love the material used for the fingers – it's soft yet warm and remains fully waterproof. There are capacitors in some fingers so you can use a smartphone, although this doesn't work 100% of the time. That isn't the end of the world, however, because they're so easy to put on and take off again.

The only negative is their longevity: after 1000 miles the fabric is starting to bobble and fray a little on the index finger of the left hand. Now, I'm left-handed, so presumably I'm subconsciously using that finger more than the rest for fumbling with keys and suchlike. I'd have still expected longer before the first signs of wear appeared.

Quality ★★★★★
Value ★★★★★
furygan.com



Vango Mirage Pro 200 £220

'Pitching is an absolute doddle'

Tested by Justin Hayzelden for 12 nights



Finding a sturdy, lightweight tent that's small enough to stash on a bike without compromising function isn't easy, but after a full four-

season test the Vango Mirage Pro 200 has proved itself to be a worthy home from home on the road. Pitching is an absolute doddle and can be done comfortably in under 15 minutes. Even the persistent heavy rain and 60mph winds I encountered on the Dragon Rally in Snowdonia back in February failed to slow the process.

The Mirage Pro 200 pitches with the both the flysheet and inner together (provided it's been packed that way), so all you need do is unroll the tent, insert the three alloy poles through the colour-coded sleeves to form a free-standing structure, then peg it down. Final tensioning of guy lines is a straightforward affair with the simple, yet effective, 'Line-Lok' runners.

Measuring 130cm internally at its widest, the Mirage Pro 200 is designed as a two-person tent, but once you take bike kit into account it's far more suited to one. Lengthwise it's a generous 225cm, which is more than enough for my 180cm (5ft 11in) frame. I tend to leave my boots in the porch, with everything else fitting neatly inside.

There's no groundsheet for the porch, but the twin-zip design on the flysheet allows for a choice of three entry points, left, right or through the middle – very handy for when the wind changes. The flysheet itself is constructed of ProTex RS, a tough, lightweight 70D fabric with the highest waterproof rating (6000mm HH) in the Vango range – perfect for the typical British summer.

Packed down into the wide-mouthed storage bag it measures a smidge under 50 x 20cm, small enough to fit inside my Givi V46 topcase with room to spare for other outdoor overnight essentials. Vango's quoted dry weight of 3.02kg is pretty much spot on, however I also slip in a mallet to aid with pegging, taking the total to exactly 3.5kg.

In winter it kept me warm and dry, whilst the mesh panels and vents allowed plenty of airflow in summer. It's light, yet as tough as old boots – the perfect companion for those memory-making off-grid two-wheeled adventures.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.vango.co.uk

ONE YEAR



Forma Hyper Dry £169.99

'Practical and cool'

Tested by Ben Clarke for two months / 1000 miles



I'm a big fan of urban motorbike boots like these from Forma. They're ideal for bumbling around on a summer's day

or nipping out to the shops and you can wear them off the bike without clomping and squeaking around and drawing attention to yourself. For me, the first job of an urban boot is to be practical. If I need to lace them up every time I put them on, I probably won't bother and so the zip on the Hyper Dry is a welcome feature (and one not all boots of this type have). Worn with a pair of riding jeans, it would take a very keen eye to spot that these weren't a normal pair of high-tops and they feel comfy and

1000 MILES

airy, too. In terms of safety, they score a CE rating of 1, which is about all you can expect from casual style boots. There are subtle reinforcements in all the right places that are reassuring without being obtrusive. Would I want to have a heavy accident in them? No, but I also don't feel particularly exposed or vulnerable in them for steady riding.

The waterproofing works well but once the boots are wet they get cold very quickly so this is more of a convenience in quick showers – I wouldn't plan to use them for long journeys on wet days. They've also started to mark on the left toe as there's no pad – which is annoying.

Quality ★★★★★
Value ★★★★★
www.formaboosts.com



Cool Covers seat cover £65

'Does it work? Absolutely'

Tested by Simon Weir for 18 months / 20,000 miles



Here's a simple idea from a British firm: a tough mesh seat cover that lets air circulate between you and the saddle to keep you cool on hot days. On wet days, it lets rain drain away so you don't sit in a puddle. Does it work? Absolutely.

I have the cover fitted to my Kawasaki Z1000SX, but options are available for a huge range of bikes (prices vary) and custom-made covers are also available. It's easy to fit and utterly secure. It's an incredibly tough material and over a busy 18 months hasn't compressed or worn at all – it still looks pretty much as new. My only minor quibble is that it's a bit non-stick so I gradually slide forwards unless I grip the tank with my knees. Overall, though, it's genius.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.coolcovers.co.uk

20,000 MILES