



FIVE MONTHS

Magneto Static Timing Light £38

'No more dark arts needed'

Tested by Simon Relph for 5 months



Setting up the ignition timing is one of those dark arts involving smoke mirrors and one of those jobs I find myself putting off until absolutely necessary. It even has its own

language, 'BTDC' and 'fully advanced' or 'pre-ignition'. I have an old 1949 Norton whose magneto had given up the ghost. I had the mag rebuilt (another dark art) so the bike now has a big fat blue spark, perfect. Fitting the magneto and setting the engine up in the correct position before TDC (Top dead Centre) wasn't too bad, it was the next bit I have struggled with in the past – setting the magneto up in the right place when the points just begin to open... this is where this little black box comes in. Simple to use on both magneto and battery/coil ignition circuits, it does away with fag paper method of setting the points in the correct position (I found I did not have enough hands). There are two small, insulated crocodile clips at the end of two leads, connect them either side of the points, then simply turn the mag back and forth until the light goes on and off, which indicates the exact point! Job done.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.themagnetoguy.co.uk



HJC C80 Helmet £229.99

'I'm a Storm Trooper...'

Tested by Ali Silcox for five months/2000 miles



I'm definitely a fan of the flip-up style lid. They're practical on touring trips, particularly on a recent trip to France, where going through passport control I had to show my beaming fizzog in its entirety.

I'm usually quite reserved with my helmet styles, but this caught my eye and I felt I had to try it. I'm not entirely sure the Storm Trooper-esque lid is aimed at a grey haired, 50-something rider but to be honest, I think it looks rather cool.

I've worn various HJC flip-up lids over the years and, like others in the range, I've had to go up a size to get the helmet to fit properly. It's not the most comfortable HJC I've worn and I find on longer rides, of say an hour and a half or more, I start to get a little fidgety.

With a polycarbonate shell and rated ECE 22.05, the lid has an integral drop-down sun-visor, that's easy to operate, via a large knob that's positioned perfectly. The lining is plush and hasn't caused any irritation to my face. I've used it during some of the hottest days of the year and after numerous sweaty rides, it's still as plump and comfortable as it was on the first wear.

The Storm Trooper appearance is credited to the large, hexagonal shaped vent on the chin bar, this combined with one large vent on the forehead, ensures there's plenty of airflow. At 1800g it's a heavy lid, although it's not caused any undue aches and pains when riding but is noticeable compared to other models.

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

FIVE MONTHS



TWO MONTHS

Defender Shock Contact Alarm £14.95

'Can you afford not to?'

Tested by Mike Armitage for two months



Want to stop your motorcycle being nicked? Buy a whacking great chain and tether it to something immovable. And get an angry-looking dog. Alarms are good in principle but can't prevent your bike from actually being lifted.

Yet I recommend everyone buys one of these. Smaller than a fag packet, it attaches inside your shed or garage with either adhesive pads or screws, and is armed and disarmed with a keypad. It's triggered either by vibration (someone forcing the door),

contact with the separate sensor being broken (the door opening), or both. If the code isn't entered within five seconds, it releases a 130dB siren. That's more than loud enough to summon your slaving hound and stir you from dreaming about NSR500s, too. The alarm is easy to install, simple to use and needs no wiring – its AAA batteries are topped up by a solar panel on top of the unit. And, best of all, it only costs fifteen quid. A deterrent for less than three pints of poncy lager? Sounds like a bargain, because it is.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.defendersecurityproducts.co.uk



Oxford Kickback Air MS Boot £89.99

'Solid, practical and affordable'

Tested by Joseph Wright for six months/3500 miles



These were my first pair of specialised riding footwear and I have to say they fitted my criteria perfectly. The reinforced padded

leather in the upper construction and heel, together with the reinforced soles, feels very safe and secure when on the road, and the perforated material to the sides allowed for cool and comfortable summer riding. Changing though the gears is super satisfying in these kicks with a slender but firm edge which offers precision when changing up though gears. Off the bike this hi-top shoe works with all my riding jeans and didn't look out of place at casual or professional events.

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

3500 MILES