



Foam magic does its work

16 months ON TEST

Silverback Xtreme Snow Foam £23.49 (2L)

'Grime doesn't stand a chance'



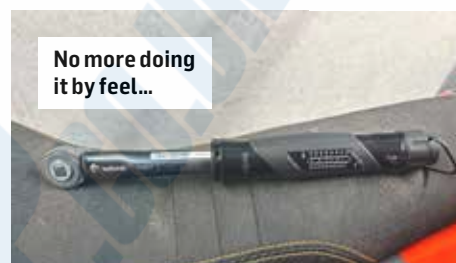
Tested by Saffron Wilson for 16 months

For me, the worst part of motorcycling is all the cleaning. Inevitably, getting wet and spending hours in nooks and crannies is something I try to avoid, so if there are products that make the process easier, then I'm all for it – and this is one of them.

I've been moving house and haven't always had access to my pressure washer, but even so it still does the job when mixed with water in a bucket. But, there is satisfyingly thorough coverage when you hook it up to the sprayer and coat the bike with a shower of foam – and that's also when it gives the best results on dirt and grime.

As it's a pre-wash, I used it when my motorcycle was filthy, and it did remove grime without loads of elbow grease, but – as the name suggests – it's not the solution to all your dirty problems. However, it does make the next step a lot easier, proving to be most effective when paired with Silverback's Wash and Shine.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★ silverbackxtreme.com



No more doing it by feel...

Halfords Advanced Torque Wrench Model 60 £115

'Removing the guess work'



Tested by Michael Guy for three years

I've always felt I had a pretty good feel for how tight bolts should be on my bike – treading that fine line between being too loose or, equally bad, over tight. But a friend of mine once questioned my unjustified confidence and said, "If you're not following manufacturer's settings and using a torque wrench then the chances are every bolt on your bike will either be too loose or too tight." He had a point, which is why three years ago I got one for Christmas from my dad. It covers from 12-60Nm and has a 3/8in drive meaning that it does everything I need it to apart from wheel nuts as they are out of range. It's easy to use and adjust. Meets accuracy criteria and comes with a lifetime guarantee. Highly recommended.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★ www.halfords.com

3 years ON TEST



I'm not sure all of this lot weighs 200kg'

6 months ON TEST

Big Dug 2x200kg Garage Shelving, 1790h x 900w x 450d mm £192

'Rated to 200kg per shelf'



Tested by Gareth Evans for six months

My garage storage capacity has been completely transformed thanks to Big Dug's shelving units. For the sake of roughly 90 minutes of construction, they've been worth their weight in gold, but that wasn't my first impression. When I unboxed them, the metal frames themselves felt so featherlight that I had the impression they were going to topple over before I could finish them.

But I persevered, joining the constituent parts using a rubber mallet on the double lip

connectors, and by the time I was putting the high-density fibreboard shelving in, it seemed to have the weight and solidity to hold serious loads without any difficulty. It's rated at 200kg per shelf, which is a huge amount, and leaves me wondering just what you'd put on there that would bring it up to capacity.

The plastic feet fit around the legs and stop the shelving scratching my painted garage floor, and these were also fiddly to start with – it'd be far easier to build these shelves with an additional pair of hands.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★ www.bigdug.co.uk



TRX battery lives again

Optimate 4 Quad Program £82.90

'Start every time'



Tested by Justin Hayzelden for three months

There's nothing worse than getting all dressed, only to prod the starter and find your battery has given up the ghost. A trickle charger can prevent such an occurrence by drip feeding juice when the bike's not in use, and I've been using the Optimate 4 to ensure my bike is always ready to rock. It does a lot more than just manage the charge though, as it conditions battery health through a series of programs to prolong life. The Optimate 4 can also recover a battery that appears completely depleted – a reg/rec failure on my TRX850 left the battery with no detectable charge, but the Optimate 4 brought it back to life in a matter of hours.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★ optimate.co.uk

3 months ON TEST

Grand Pitstop Puncture Kit £26.99

'Feels pro quality'



Tested by Ben Clarke for one repair

This kit comes in a handy leatherette pouch a bit like a small washbag and as soon as you pick it up you notice the weight. I've used the Ranger Stork kit (also an Amazon special) previously, which weighs considerably less with its simpler and more manual tools. I've only repaired one puncture with the kit but it's really easy to use. If you want to use this kit as a wilderness repair option then you'd have to get some CO₂ canisters (adding to the cost) or carry a pump (extra luggage) but the repair itself could be done anywhere.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★ www.amazon.co.uk

1 use