



Pricey but the performance is right up there



5 months

TCX Airtech 3 GTX
£249.99

'Good looking touring gear'

Tested by Dan Sutherland for 2000 miles



The spec is impressive – from the reflective inserts for better visibility at night, to the Gore-Tex membrane, which keeps the wet out in even the harshest of conditions. Elsewhere, you get reinforcements on the shins, toes, heels, and ankle area – with the whole boot hugging your foot and lower leg to deliver a comfortable and secure fit. They're also easy to take on and off, with a simple zip and Velcro closure.

That might not seem like a big thing but wearing bulky winter textiles and underlayers can be uncomfortable – especially when kitting up on the daily commute – so having boots that are easy to put on is welcome.

They look great, too. Touring boots can look quite dull, but the mix of dotted designs, diamond panelling, and glossy external toe protection make a welcome change.

Despite all these positives, the shin design is quite bulky, meaning it can be difficult to slip slim fit textile trousers over the top.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
uk.tcxboots.com



Winners Sinners Grinders
by Mat Oxley £27

'Full of stories that will give PR people sleepless nights'



Reviewed by Michael Guy

In the ever more corporate world of political correctness and uptight PR people we generally only get to hear the soundbites and the information racers and teams want us to hear. So thank goodness the paddock is still littered with proper old-school journalists like MotoGP guru, former TT race winner and MCN contributor Mat Oxley who has made a career out of telling us what is really going on.

His latest book *Winners Sinners Grinders* is full of the types of stories that will give race team press officers sleepless nights – which is why it's such an interesting and entertaining read.

It's a monster 412 pages and features 80 chapters / stories from his decades in the racing world. From beers with John McGuinness to time at the ranch with Valentino Rossi, the stories have been achieved as a result of Oxley being known and respected – but not always liked – by the people he's interviewing. It's full of the types of interviews that you only get by spending serious time with your subject.

And it's not just about the riders, with Oxley being an accomplished technical writer there are plenty of sit downs with some of the greatest minds in Grand Prix racing including Rossi and Mick Doohan's title winning crew chief Jeremy Burgess and Roman Forcada who won three MotoGP crowns with Jorge Lorenzo at Yamaha.

There's plenty of tales from the TT too; McGuinness at his entertaining best and Peter Hickman explaining how he wheelspins through a lot of the sixth gear corners at the Isle of Man.

Being split into 80 stories it's easy to dip in and out of and I you'll understand more about racing by the end of it than you will from watching "I am very happy and I gave 110%" rider interviews.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
matoxley.bigcartel.com



13 months

LiteLok Core Moto 150, £199 + storage bag, £19.99

'Alternative to chunky chains'

Tested by Richard Newland



Available in 150cm and 125cm options, I've been using the 150cm version of the Core Moto in Blaze Orange (also available in red or black). Rated Sold Secure Motorcycle Gold standard, ART Level 3, and Secured by Design – it offers plenty of protection peace of mind, all wrapped in a washable neoprene skin to prevent scratching. At its core is the firm's Boaflexicore Plus, which is a multi-strand weave of plant-based polymer, steel and a high-tensile core – mated to

a hardened steel lock. In operation, it's exceptionally simple to use, and when not in use, it can be coiled to make it smaller. So far, all very good indeed. But here's the frustration: It's exceptionally rigid, which – depending on your bike and locking location – can make it tricky to use. Feeding it though some wheels is hard, and you have to park carefully next to your locking point to ensure the fairly rigid hoop can get to where it needs to be. It doesn't have the floppy malleability of a conventional chain lock.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.litelok.com



Cardo Freecom 4X £236

'Compact, easy to use and waterproof'



Tested by Simon Weir for four months

This compact Bluetooth intercom headset is relatively simple to install, although there's no way of tightening the plastic mounting clip: it's a pure push fit. It uses JBL speakers, which give good-quality and are plenty loud enough. It's easy to pair and speech quality is excellent with pillions and bike-to-bike range is reasonable... if you can see them, you can hear them. It connects to up to three other headsets, but there's no Mesh capacity so for a larger group you'd need a Cardo Packtalk. It's a nicely small unit but the battery lasts all day. The controls are simple, with three buttons and a clickable wheel. They're easy to work with summer gloves on, while slightly fiddlier with thicker winter ones.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.cardosystems.com

8000 MILES

