



Substance over style, big on value too



Duchinni Journey jacket £159.99

'Impressive for the price'

Tested by Mike Armitage for 1000 miles



Protection is the reason we wrap ourselves in riding clobber. Protection from the rain and wind, certainly, but surely the main reason is to stop the road removing a layer of bark should we muddle our intentions and abilities. This is the reason why I'm always amazed how seemingly top-line bike kit can offer next to buggery-all protection. I had a £420 race-style leather jacket made from 'high performance cowhide', held together with what they claim to be safety stitching, yet that had a basic A-level CE rating. Which is why this Duchinni jacket is such damn good value. I know it looks a bit 1990s, that the material isn't the softest and that there isn't a back protector included. But it has loads of pockets and vents and adjustment, a removable thermal liner, keeps the rain out, and most importantly has a much more inspiring AA rating. And for those on a really tight budget Duchinni's AA-rated textile jackets start at under £100.

1000 MILES

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.thekeycollection.co.uk



Furygan Midland D30 37.5 Lady gloves £74.99

'Big news for small hands'

Tested by Emma Franklin for three months / 1000 miles



Women with small hands rejoice – these are the three-season gloves for you! Designed for smaller female paws, the Midland Lady sizing starts at a teeny 15.2cm palm circumference (XS), whereas most unisex gloves start at around 17cm. The fingers, too, are also proportionally shorter than those of unisex gloves. With that in mind, the sizing is somewhat unique, with my fairly average-sized lady hands only just managing to squeeze into an XL/9 size, when I'm usually a S/8 in unisex gloves, so I'd strongly advise that you head to a showroom so that you can try a few pairs on.

Away from the female-specific fit, the Midland are a great value pair of everyday riding gloves. There's a goatskin outer that provides a reassuring level of protection as well as masses of feel, all backed up with a soft D30 knuckle armour and Velcro wrist strap. But their special skill comes by way of their thermal regulatory properties, courtesy of the clever 37.5 Technology embedded on the super-soft fleece layer inside. 37.5

1000 MILES

features active particles that are claimed to remove perspiration from the skin at the vapour stage before liquid sweat forms, both preventing hands from getting too hot and clammy or cold and wet. And, based on my experience, the science works. Considering these gloves are closer in terms of bulk to summer gloves than winter mitts, they do keep hands warm down to temperatures as low as about 6°C. Likewise on warmer days, I've yet to experience the dreaded 'sweaty lining' syndrome, although I do feel that the 37.5 Technology would be overcome on the hottest of summer days, or when riding abroad. And on the subject of the lining, unfortunately it does have an annoying habit of becoming wrinkled up inside the fingers when you take the gloves off, meaning that you have to fight to straighten it out when it's time to put them on again – a problem that would only get worse if your hands were to get a bit clammy.

The gloves also have a waterproof/breathable membrane, but being a very short-cuff design, they'll only ever keep you dry in a shower – as rain will quickly get in at the wrist.

Quality ★★★★★
Value ★★★★★
www.nevis.uk.com



Venhill 5ft Speedo cable £18.32

SIX MONTHS

'These cables go the distance'

Tested by Simon Relph for six months



Certain things on a motorcycle are always taken for granted, they just work and get on with their job with minimal attention needed; it is only when it stops working you realise how much you relied on it! I am, of course, referring to the speedo cable, which busily spins away quietly letting you know how fast you are going. I'd just set out on my trusty Triumph Tiger Cub, when disaster struck.

Well not exactly disaster, more, bloody annoyance. On some of the longer distance trials I do, it is necessary to know how many miles you have travelled to be able to follow the course, this is made very hard without a working speedo.

Going onto the Venhill website I was able to identify and select the correct end types and length of cable for my Tiger Cub. Sometimes if they are not available for your bike at the time, Venhill put in a lead time and will get one made up and out to you. Also, if a cable is not listed but you have the original, it is possible to send in your old one and utilise the Venhill bespoke service. Should you ever be in doubt about fitting a cable, speedo or otherwise, Venhill have put together a very handy downloadable pdf on cable installation and maintenance recommendations, so you can look after your cables and get more out of them. The detail, finish and quality of their kit is spot on.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.venhill.co.uk



Oxford Aqua D WP packing cubes £24.99

'An invaluable bit of touring gear'

Tested by Simon Weir for four years, 60,000 miles



These three bags are an invaluable part of my packing process. Clothes go in the largest red one – it'll hold four days' T-shirts and underwear comfortably. I put shoes in the medium green one, though it could hold another three days' clothes. I use the small one as my bag of power: adaptors, chargers, leads, extra power banks and headphones live in it – but it's big enough to take much more besides.

Packing kit in these keeps it all organised and dry, even if the outer luggage leaks. I've used them enough that the branding has worn off and they're looking a bit battered, but they still work as well as ever. My only gripe is that you can only buy them in sets like this, not individually or in packs of the same size: I'd like a couple more of the most-useful red ones.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.oxfordproduct.com