



**TRIED & TESTED**  
MCN STAFF RATE THEIR RIDING KIT  
★★★★★

**Richa Nomad Evo Long boots £99.99**

**'Not flashy, just great value'**

**TWO MONTHS**

**Tested by Martin Fitz-Gibbons for two months, 1000 miles**

Unpretentious touring boots that slip under the crucial £100 threshold. The Nomad Evo, like Richa's highly-rated Nomad before it, is made with a genuine leather outer. A pair of zips (one on each side of the boot) opens them up really wide, so it's never a struggle getting feet in. Waterproofing is provided by a Hipora membrane, which might not breathe quite as well as Gore-Tex but hasn't let a drop of rain in yet.

CE scores are strong given the price, with a higher Level 2 pass for both abrasion and impact cut tests, though just the basic Level 1 pass for rigidity. That said, the shin protection seems pretty modest (soft padding rather

than hard plastic) and there's no sign of any specific ankle reinforcement. It's all in line with the basic, affordable touring boot role, but something to consider. Comfort is great on or off the bike. The lining is soft and plush, sizing is accurate, and there's a tiny smidge of calf adjustment thanks to a Velcro-lined flap at the rear of the boot. For less than £100, I'm impressed.

**Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★**  
[www.nevis.uk.com](http://www.nevis.uk.com)

**PROS & CONS**

- +** Value, comfort, waterproofing, simplicity
- Some will prefer more armour and rigidity



Double zip for access and adjustment on the calf too



**Alpinestars Gordon Drystar Overcoat £299.99**

**'One of the warmest jackets I own'**

**Tested by Michael Neeves for three years**

With three years' service under its hood this parker-style riding jacket is still like new, apart from my keys have worn a hole in one of the pockets (which I've repaired). I mainly wear it around town on a scooter, but also on bigger journeys on naked, tourers, retros and adventure bikes. I really like its style, fit and it's made from a sturdy, soft canvas polyester/cotton material with a removable thermal liner, it's one of the warmest jackets I own. It's showerproof and best of all great to wear out and about when I'm off the bike. There's body armour and double layers of fabric on the shoulders and elbows for extra protection. I wear an Astars Tech Air 5 air bag vest underneath, so I'm as fully protected as if I was wearing a conventional textile or leather jacket. Shop around online and they're £60 less than retail.

**Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★**  
[www.alpinestars.com](http://www.alpinestars.com)

**3 YEARS**

**R&G Glean Waterless Bike Wash 1L £9.16**

**Tested by Dan Sutherland, five washes, two months**  
This has proved an excellent addition – combatting bug splats without need for a full bike wash. Simply shake well, spray on and buff off, it's removed everything from brake dust, to insect remains and can be used on all surfaces of the bike with a streak-free finish. What's more, after five uses, most of the bottle remains, meaning it's also decent value for money.

**Value ★★★★★ Quality ★★★★★**  
[www.rg-racing.com](http://www.rg-racing.com)



Relphy's classics now get that full factory feel

**Oxford Team Mat £129.99**

**'Soaks up most spillages'**

**Tested by Simon Relph 5 months**

If you enjoy tinkering, then you can often find yourself scrabbling around on your knees, which after some time becomes cold and uncomfortable. To cure this, I have gone for the Oxford Team Mat. It is 2.4 metres long and just over a metre wide with plenty of space for a bike and me to move about on. The backing is made from Nitrile, a synthetic rubber which has a good resistance to engine oil and fuel.

The main part of the mat has a 5mm deep nylon pile carpet which will soak up most things that get spilled on it. It is also a great barrier between a cold concrete garage floor and my feet which would normally get chilled after long periods in the garage. The best bit is how it looks, the answer is very smart and gives my workshop that pro look.

**Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★**  
[www.oxfordproducts.com](http://www.oxfordproducts.com)

**PROS & CONS**

- +** Looks good and feels plush under foot/knees
- Nothing so far in the time I have had it

**5 MONTHS**



**Laser Monkey wheel alignment tool £34.99**

**6 MONTHS**

**'It makes aligning chains or belts an absolute doddle'**

**Tested by Jordan Gibbons for six months**

Some of you may look at this and think "what's the point, my swingarm has marks on it and it's dead easy to adjust a chain". Until recently, I'd have agreed but I now own a Harley, which doesn't have any marks on the swingarm. Instead there's some daft system involving an old bent coat

hanger, a rubber band and a migraine. To skip that kerfuffle, I got hold of one of these things and it's now a doddle. Simply attach it to your sprocket or belt carrier and it shines a laser, then you straighten the wheel off that. I have used it on regular chain drive bikes as well now and for £35 it's a no brainer.

**Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★**  
[www.tru-tension.co.uk](http://www.tru-tension.co.uk)



**Rukka Outlast shirt and long johns £55 each**

**'Thin but great'**

**Tested by Mike Armitage for two months, 1000 miles**

Rukka's shirt and strides seem thin and flimsy, making you question their ability. Yet the performance is superb. Apparently the Outlast temperature regulation notices a change in your temperature or the outside air, and its 'phase change paraffin' thermocules change from solid to liquid to provide thermal equilibrium. And back again as required. Sounds like far-fetched twaddle but it works: these layers keep me as snug as far thicker, woollier items when it's chilly, yet kept me from becoming a sweaty mess on an unseasonably warm spring day. Slip unnoticed under any clobber, too. Impressed? I am.

**Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★**  
[www.bikerheadz.co.uk](http://www.bikerheadz.co.uk)

**1000 MILES**

**MCN 5000 R5K READERS' TOP FIVE BOOTS**



**1 TCX RT-Race £199.99**

Not waterproof at all, but there's great ventilation and they're super comfy with the inner sock lining. I'd recommend them if you don't want to spend a fortune. Terry Fox, Thatcham

**2 Dainese Torque 3 Out Boots £369.95**

The way to get them on, with the zip at the rear, is fast and easy with no buckles. Fantastic boots! Mark Waters, Lincs



**3 Alpinestars Supertech R £419.99**

Because they're wide at the top, they'd suit any brand of leathers. Luke Burnett, Lincoln



**4 Daytona Evo Voltex £779.99**

They offer by far the best protection from abrasion, impact and abnormal range of motion. David Wright, Suffolk



**5 RST TracTech Evo III Short £109.99**

They're not bad value at all and my feet feel secure. They could make changing sliders easier, but that's it. Jamie Vincent, Dorset



**REVIEW YOUR KIT IN MCN**

Got a product you want to shout about? Let us know via the #ride5000miles Facebook group