



## Roadskin Bronte leggings £149.99

### ‘Big news for female riders’



**Tested by Emma Franklin for three months**

The trend for protective leggings is big news for female riders, because they blur the line between bike kit and everyday wear, while also being comfy and flattering for all body shapes. Designed by a family-run British kit firm, the Brontes feature a full Kevlar lining beneath the stretchy outer fabric which, combined with the robust build quality and attention to detail (such as the elasticated foot stirrups), gives a real feeling of security. The high waistband protects the lower back from being exposed whilst riding.

My only bugbear is that I find the Kevlar lining a little itchy. Plus, while it's great that Roadskin have supplied top-rated Level-2 knee and hip armour as standard I feel it's just too bulky, and a skin-tight product like this would be better having some of the new wave of ultra-thin armour, such as D30 Ghost, albeit at the lower Level-1 rating.

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



## Richa Krazy Horse boot £99.99

### ‘Like hugging an old friend’



**Tested by Gareth Evans for 3000 miles/five months**

These boots arrived with a somewhat distressed look on the sole, and to be honest I've done nothing at all to help matters, because I've been wearing them in all sorts of conditions; including freezing temperatures, 40°C+ heat, and pouring rain.

They've taken a real pasting, in fact, as my day-to-day riding footwear of choice. I wore them as a road boot to go alongside the more focused items I used for trackdays, so their number one requirement was comfort, and they're excellent in that respect.

One of the features that helps most is the liner, which is a mix of polyester and Hipora, so it's breathable, soft and 100% waterproof. It's a joy to push a foot into them, actually: like hugging an old friend!

And while I've definitely put them to a fragrance test over my time with them, the anti-bacterial cushioned sole has been up to the task, and I can confirm that even as I type this, they smell as fresh as they did from the factory, despite my best efforts.

Furthermore, the laces are particularly strong with decent low-friction eyes, so they're easy to tighten comfortably. This gives them a premium feel, which goes a little way to justifying the one-ton price tag.

The exterior leather is soft, but the carcass is supportive in all the right places, with additional high-impact protection for shin and ankle and extra armour for the toe for gear-changes.

But the negative point is the fashion-first nature of the design, by which I mean they look and feel great, but aren't up to the highest levels of safety certification. They score the highest of two for transverse rigidity, but one for all other aspects.

And they're water-resistant like the label claims, and I can certainly attest to that, having ridden in torrential downpours and stepped in several deep puddles when the time came to stop.

You can buy these in the pictured brown, or black. I think the brown matches blue jeans nicely, hence my selection.

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



## Vanucci VXU-3 Thermo Jacket £117.41

### ‘Looks good, keeps you warm’



**Tested by Ben Clarke for three months**

This garment can be used as part of the Vanucci+ modular kit system but because it has no fixing system, it can also be used as a mid-layer with any bike jacket.

The build quality feels high with sturdy seams and zips and nice attention to detail. The Outlast material, originally developed by NASA, works by absorbing excess body heat when you get too hot and then returning it when you need it. It works, too.

I've worn this as an off-the-bike jacket to social occasions and the office without anyone thinking it was bike kit. As a multi-purpose insulated mid-layer, the Vanucci is fairly-priced, comfortable, practical and good-looking. But if you want something more motorbike-specific or that can be zipped into an existing jacket then look elsewhere.

It's warm – but regulated – at all times, and you can really feel that stored warmth being given back when you need it most.

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



## Five HG3 £229

### ‘Super warm’



**Tested by Steve Herbert-Mattick for two years**

The test of these gloves for me isn't the near-perfect heating or the easy operation – it's how well they work as a winter glove when the battery runs out. Decent armour is fitted not just in the knuckles but there's a scaphoid slider too. And they're totally waterproof, warm and comfy. You get three heat settings, easily controlled by a colour coded LED light on each cuff. Full power will drain the batteries in about an hour and a half.

The short cuff isn't enough to always stay over sleeves, while the batteries make them a bit bulky for going under the cuffs of some jackets. But their fully-synthetic, cruelty-free construction, battery life on the lower settings and fantastic warmth across my always-freezing digits is excellent.

**Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★**  
[www.five-gloves.shop](http://www.five-gloves.shop)

**4000 MILES ON TEST**