

## THE MCN SHOWCASE

# PROTECTIVE AIRBAGS

Tempted by hi-tech protection, but don't know which one to get? Here's six systems we've tested

MCN BEST BUY



- Fit and comfort rated
- Design, construction and tech assessed
- Rated for ease of use and overall value

### RATINGS

Exceptional ★★★★★ Very good ★★★★  
Good ★★★ Average ★★  
Poor ★

Helite e-Turtle 2 Airvest, £625 – or with fork sensor, £725

## 'Simple, versatile gear'

Tested by Richard Newland for five months, 1500 miles

The first airbag jacket I ever tried was so heavy that I wore it twice and returned it. But Helite's e-Turtle 2 couldn't be more different. You just slip it over the top of your jacket and do up the clips, press the 'on' button three times to get the green light – and go. You don't need a back protector either, as a Level 2 one is integrated into the vest. It doesn't require a tether or any other systems – although you can add their fork sensor pack (you can pair up to five with one jacket), which halves the reaction time, and protects you in static/sub-12mph crashes, such as getting hit from behind at the lights. The vest can deploy numerous times

(in 0.094s) provided no damage is done to the 28-litre bladder, all you need to do is replace the gas canister (£20-£23), which is so simple that you can do it at the roadside. It has a four-year warranty, and only needs servicing every two years, while the bladder has a lifetime warranty. It lasts about 25 hours per charge. I wear it on every journey – as do many police, blood bikers and other professionals. Superb. **Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★** [www.airvest.co.uk](http://www.airvest.co.uk)

### PROS & CONS

- + Huge versatility, light, comfy, coverage, no subs
- Price, some may prefer an integrated garment



You can replace a canister at the roadside



Klim Ai-1 £380 (+£100 per year subscription)

## 'I don't ever ride without it on'

Tested by Jordan Gibbons for four months, 1000 miles



Klim have worked with In&Motion on this standalone vest where you buy the airbag part then lease the electronic box for around £100 a year. The little box is removable to charge (riding time 24 hours) and for software updates, while the inflator can be replaced at home three times before going back to the factory in France. The material is stretchy, so it's comfortable although it is bulkier than a CE Level 2 back protector. Coverage is good but doesn't extend to the arms. Off-road mode is an additional £20 per year.

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



RST Race Dept V4.1 Airbag £999.99 (+£100 p/a subs)

## 'No more hassle than a normal suit'

Tested by Chris Newbigging for four months, 600 miles



First impression is that it feels heavy, but it weighs no more than a normal suit plus the separate back and chest protectors you no longer need to wear. The airbag ECU must be removed to charge once in a while (buried in the suit with very stiff retaining clips), otherwise it's not really any extra hassle. The suit is easier to put on with no separate armour to squeeze in, and fit and comfort is great for me. You can replace the inflator cartridges twice before the suit needs to be inspected – handy for getting back on track after a minor spill. The unit requires an annual £100 subscription which includes full back-up and three-yearly unit upgrades.

**Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★** [www.rst-moto.com](http://www.rst-moto.com)