



Kriega R15 backpack £125

'Best piece of kit I own'



Tested by Michael Guy for 10 years
It doesn't happen often, but some things in life genuinely exceed

expectations and my Kriega R15 does just that. It's been my companion through thick and thin and is my go-to rucksack whenever I do any sort of off-road or adventure riding. Its most valuable quality lies in its relative simplicity. It's a rucksack, so it needs to be comfortable and to be able to carry stuff... full stop. It has one main storage compartment accessible via a zip, and inside that compartment is a pocket for my hydration pack, and a large fully waterproof internal zipped pocket for valuables. On the outside is a large easily accessible pocket – and that's it.

It uses Kriega's Quadlock-lite harness, which clips together across the chest, and is designed to transfer weight from the shoulders to spread out across your chest – and it really works. There is also a waist strap which ensures it's completely secure even when the going gets rough.

Like most Kriega kit, it comes with a ten-year guarantee. Mine is now ten years old and has been through a lot, yet it remains fully functional and every bit as good as the day I got it.

MCN rating ★★★★★
www.kriega.com



10 years ON TEST

Quadlock-lite keeps it comfy

Ten years on and looking... kinda muddy

Oxford Hardy 2.0 £249.99

'AA-rated protection'



Tested by Ben Clarke for 500 miles
The Oxford Hardy 2.0 is, as the name suggests, the second

version of this waxed textile retro jacket from the UK firm. The new version gets a bit of a styling upgrade but the biggest change is a move from A to AA CE certification.

As wax jackets go, the Hardy is quite sporty (not something you'd normally say about kit with diamond stitching) as it has a short-and-arms-forward cut.

It would be ideal for a sporty Norton, Triumph or BMW roadster but I've been wearing it on the 2025 Indian 101 Scout and it's perfectly comfortable on that, too.

The outer fabric is a water-resistant blend of waxed cotton and polyester (50/50) that allows lighter showers to bead and roll off. In heavier downpours, this layer eventually 'wets out' but there's also a fixed waterproof liner underneath to keep you dry.

The Hardy 2.0 needs a little breaking in, which is something I normally associate with leather garments. It doesn't take long to get started but the first hundred miles or so are a little stiff and rigid before the fabric starts to relax around you.



Waxed cotton allows light showers to bead off. The jacket looks cool too

Since that point it has just become more and more comfortable and I anticipate that in years to come the jacket will feel like a comforting second skin.

3 months ON TEST

But I find the sleeve design very awkward to use with anything other than short gloves because there is so much thick fabric used in the webbing. I wear comparatively short heated gloves (Gerbing Xtreme XR) that are wired to the bike (so no batteries) and they have no hope of fitting inside the sleeves but also struggle to fit around the outside of the bulky jacket cuffs.

There are plenty of retro style jackets that prioritise looking cool on a sunny pub ride and not much else – and don't get me wrong, there's a place for this in the market too – but the Hardy 2.0 takes things a little further.

Is it the right jacket for a winter of commuting? No. But I have been able to start wearing it far earlier in the season than I expected.

MCN rating ★★★★★
oxfordproducts.com

Spada Acqua Shield Waterproof Overmitts £12.99

'Banish the rain and wind'



Tested by Michael Neeves for three months
These are my second set of Spada

Overmitts. I've been wearing my first set since 2020 and they're still going strong, but these new versions have been redesigned to make them even more useful.

There's no such thing as a completely waterproof glove and even the most expensive ones will leak at some point... unless you slip these over the top. With their taped seams and elasticated cuffs, they keep out the rain and wind, leaving hands warm and dry, whatever the weather. I use them all year over heated, winter and summer gloves.



3 months ON TEST

The best £12.99 you'll ever spend

They fold up into virtually nothing, making them easy to carry, and come in black or lumo yellow.

My first Spadas were a true mitten design, which could sometimes be clumsy using my bike's controls, but these now have two fingers, which give more feel for the front brake,

throttle and clutch. The only downside is they won't clear the rain when you wipe your visor, it just spreads it around. Best of all is the price. Costing just £12.99 they're a genuine game changer.

MCN rating ★★★★★
www.spadaclimbing.com



10,000 miles ON TEST

No more puck required

Evotech Sidestand Extension £44.99

'Beat that sinking feeling'



Tested by Richard Newland for nine months

There's nothing more aggravating than stopping somewhere with no hard-standing and realising that you forgot your sidestand puck – again. But you can beat that (literal) sinking feeling by simply boosting the size of your sidestand's footprint. The big foot that you see here – designed and

made in the UK by Evotech Performance – is fitted to an R1300GS. Designed to ensure it doesn't foul any part of the bike when raised, but big enough to provide security on soft or uneven ground, it's proved invaluable. It's all-metal construction means it copes with a lot of abuse, while it only takes about 30 seconds to fit.

MCN rating ★★★★★
evotech-performance.com