

3 Merlin Alton II D30 £299.99

'Lightweight, flexible and great venting'

www.merlinbikegear.shop

The Merlin Alton II is a soft and supple jacket with a waxy external finish.

The inner lining is mesh for airflow and it comes with a sleeveless thermal liner. The liner has one proper pocket and a pass-through slot to one in the main jacket, with another beneath the liner's proper pocket.

Small gussets behind the shoulders allow you to reach forward to the handlebar without undue pressure or tension across the back.

It has a CE rating of AA and comes with Level 1 D30

armour in the shoulders and arms but no back protector, which dented confidence a little; the optional D30 Viper Stealth Level 1 armour is £37. It also has perforated leather under the arms, plus two front-mounted vents and a rear exhaust vent.

Putting the jacket on, it is a very nice fit; snug under the arms without being tight, and the armour falls in the right place despite being adjustable if necessary.

The sleeves are spot on when wearing it standing, but if anything they can be

slightly short if you have to reach forward to distant bars - with a resulting gape at the wrist.

In use, it is lovely - soft, flexible and with no pressure anywhere. It doesn't push up into the chin or down into the groin.

The difference in fit between the liner in and out is marginal. The liner staves off chill and cooling airflow is nice with the vents open. But with the liner removed airflow is excellent thanks to the front vents, perforated leather and exhaust vent.

THE FACTS

Material Aniline leather

Weight (inc liner and back protector) 2710g

CE rating AA

Armour rating L1

Back protector included? ✘
£37 (Level 1)

Removable thermal liner? ✔ (vest)

Pockets (inside) 3

Pockets (outside) 2

Adjustment Hem

Vents 2 (front), 3 (rear)

Size tested UK42

Colours Black, brown, oxblood

Sizes UK38-UK50

'With the liner removed airflow is excellent'

VERDICT

Super-soft, supple and flexible, works with and without the liner, and has a contemporary look and feel.

THE SCORES

Fit



Comfort



Ease of use



Venting



Confidence



Total 40/50

VENTING

Two vents at the front-mounted on one side - and a rear vent mean there is a controllable flow of cooling air.

▼ Twin front vents to help you keep your cool

▲ Good-sized internal pocket - and accessible through liner when fitted

