



A big thumbs up for these sporty road Pirellis

3334 MILES

Pirelli Diablo Rosso IV Corsa £313

'They never leave you wanting more'

Tested by Michael Neeves for six weeks



My Triumph Speed Triple 1200RR comes on Pirelli's Diablo Super Corsa SP tyres as standard. Aside from the Italian firm's race rubber, the SPs are the stickiest hoops in their range. They're superb for rapid road riding and even better on track, as I found out when I took my RR to Oulton earlier in the year. They're decent in the wet and work fine in the cold, although below 10 degrees it's tricky to keep heat in them. They wear well, too. I changed them after 2944 miles and the rear still looked good.

Impressive stuff, but the Diablo Rosso IV Corsas I replaced them with are an even better high performance road tyre. They fit between the SP and Diablo Rosso IV in Pirelli's range and are designed for fast road riding and trackdays. I can vouch for their grip on track, having ridden a BMW S1000RR on them at Mugello. Aside from slightly slower steering characteristics and a firmer ride, you'd be hard pushed to tell them apart from a Super Corsa SP.

They never leave you wanting more on the road, either. 3000 of the miles I've covered on them were on a trip to the Pyrenees, enduring motorway miles, torrential rain and scorched mountain roads. They showed little wear when I changed them for their direct rival: Dunlop's SportSmart TT. Watch this space for the review.

Quality ★★★★★
Value ★★★★★
www.pirelli.com



Rev'it Sand 4 H2O jacket/
trousers £439.99/£339.99

'Versatile... if a little pricey'

Tested by Simon Weir for seven weeks



This is a really well-made textile suit (with an AA rating). It's a three-layer job, with the outer material holding the armour – CE Level 2 shoulder and elbow protectors in the jacket, Level 2 knee armour and Level 1 hip protectors in the trousers. I added my own back protector to the pocket in the jacket.

The inner layer is a thermal and, I'll be honest, I've not tested it yet this summer, but it's plush and thick and I'm sure it will be effective.

The thermal zips into the middle layer, the waterproof one. It's a rubbery, non-breathable material and too sweaty for comfort on warm-but-damp days. The jacket liner can be pulled on over the outer layer like a normal waterproof and works really well. The trouser element can only be worn zipped into the outer, so a separate set of waterproof leggings need to go in the pannier if the liner is left out.

In the dry, the large vents on the jacket work well. There are reasonable vents in the trousers, too. There are huge waterproof pockets on the jacket – I stuffed them so full of things I looked pregnant – as well as two inside pockets. There are four pockets on the trousers, too.

I've used it on trips around Switzerland, Wales (wet!) and England and it's a very good suit. It will come into its own on cooler autumn days, when the waterproof liners can be fitted.

Quality ★★★★★
Value ★★★★★
www.revitsport.com

PROS & CONS

- + looks, venting, big pockets, quality
- sweaty waterproof liners (particularly in the trousers)



Oxford Iota 1.0 Air Jacket £119.99

'It's worth every penny'

Tested by Ali Silcox for two years



During the summer months, I love to have a vented jacket in my arsenal of kit. It's one of those go-to bits of riding gear that I feel is an extravagance to have hanging in the garage for much of the year, but it's worth every penny.

Over the years I've tested various, at varying price points and from different manufacturers, and this one from Oxford Products ticks all the right boxes.

Made from polyester, the key areas are traditional fabric with around a third of the

jacket made from perforated, air-tex style material, so it's perfect for summer. It has a CE approved A-rating and comes fitted with CE approved protectors at the shoulders and elbows, with space for a back protector.

The collar is soft lined and there are nice touches with adjusters at the hip and on the sleeves, which ensure a snug fit. A couple of zipped external pockets are large enough for keys, and an internal pocket holds my phone.

I wear a size 14 and it's true to size.

Quality ★★★★★
Value ★★★★★
www.oxfordproducts.com



Nikwax Leather Cleaner/
Restorer £5.75 / £6.99

'Rubbing new life into my jacket'

Tested by Simon Relph for 11 months



Riding through summer my leather jacket looks like it has been attacked by the cast of Bugs life. To keep my jacket looking good, I use Nikwax Leather Cleaner followed

by Nikwax Leather Restorer. Just spray it on evenly, give it a moment to soak in, then give all the areas it has been applied to a good rub with a lint free cloth, going back over any stubborn deposits. The cleaner does restore some of the water repellence, but for a belt and braces approach I also use the Nikwax Leather Restorer. Applied in the same way it improves breathability and water repellency which helps keep the inner structure of the leather intact.

Quality ★★★★★
Value ★★★★★
www.nikwax.com

11 MONTHS



5000 MILES