



3800 miles
ON TEST

Stay cool with zippered vents

AA rated with a stunning array of features

REV-IT! Poseidon GTX Jacket £779.99

'Poseidon reigns in wet weather'



Tested by Justin Hayzelden for six months

With a name like Poseidon you'd expect a jacket to be handy in the wet, and this AA rated adventure textile from REV-IT! has proved to be an exceptional performer. Double and triple laminated Gore-Tex makes it impervious to rain, yet still allows moisture out to prevent that 'boil in the bag' feeling.

Generous air vents are provided for when the weather's fine, with trick FidLock magnetic catches to hold the front flaps open. The fit is fantastic, and I really like the straps for snugging the armour into position, especially the v-shaped belts either side of the torso that keep the optional chest and back protectors (£31.99 and £41.99 respectively) in place. CE Level 2 shoulder and elbow armour is included as standard. It has five external pockets, all waterproof, including a right-handed Napoleon pocket and a neat pouch on the left forearm for cards or toll passes. The Poseidon is well made and perfectly functional, making it good value for money despite the fairly high price.

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



Trainer style with safety too

Alpinestars Speedforce £204.99

'Unbeatable for comfort'



Tested by Carl Stevens for 18 months

In all my years of riding, I have yet to find a riding shoe as comfortable as the Speedforce from Alpinestars.

They are modelled on a running shoe and they certainly feel like it, offering a similar level of contour and cushioning (with an 8mm drop) to a standard shoe. Although it sounds like a gimmick, this truly does make them an absolute must if I'm going for a ride and a full day out, where I know that I'm going to be doing a load of walking too.

Not only do the Alpinestars look great, but they've also held up well, with the bottom of the shoe (which is impressively grippy thanks to the design of the lugs) taking tens of thousands of miles of abuse both on foot and on two wheels, without wearing out excessively and losing any grip.

My pair of Speedforce shoes have been through just about every element and offer decent levels of ventilation on a toasty day, although there is absolutely no water resistance if you get caught in a shower.

They have even been subjected to multiple washes yet they haven't faltered once, while the additional Softprene slip sock construction, which makes it quick and easy to get your foot in and keep it secure, hasn't sagged at all. Although the shoes feel sturdy on my feet and come equipped with a Transversal Protection Frame (basically a metal bar and midsole reinforcement) alongside reinforced toe and heel protection it is evident that they don't offer the same protection as a full-length boot – instead they offer what I believe is a cracking trade-off between comfort and safety.

My only niggles come from the laces which could do with a little compartment to tuck in the excess (they're a bit long) while the internal shifting pad feels a bit too soft and I'd like a bit more support on upshifts.

Aside from that, they're a cracking little pair of boots that tick all the right boxes for me, in terms of style, substance and protection. Oh, and as an extra bonus if you're a bit shorter they also offer a few extra millimetres of height for tiptoeing on taller bikes!

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.alpinestars.com

5000 miles
ON TEST



They're like two gloves in one

3000 miles
ON TEST

Pharao Grip N Dry £79.99

'Affordable, but not waterproof'



Tested by Dan Sutherland for six months/3000 miles

I've been using these three-season gloves throughout summer and autumn across a number of bikes, and they have been seriously impressive for the price. They can be worn in two configurations, placing your fingers in comfortable, warm pocket inside the glove during colder months, or in an outer perforated pouch for warmer rides. They are comfortable to temperatures as low as 10 degrees, and up to around 25 degrees.

For the price, you also get touchscreen

compatible index fingers, hard plastic knuckle and finger protection, plus SuperFabric reinforcements on the cuff. There's also a visor wipe on the left index finger.

Unfortunately, during rain storms, the gloves do not remain waterproof – defending your digits from a light shower and nothing more. This is despite including a Clime-Max membrane – said to be waterproof, windproof, and breathable. More positive is the length of the cuff, which slips over a thick textile jacket sleeve – preventing wind and water ingress.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.sportsbikeshop.co.uk



Doing the job after five years

EDZ Merino Wool Boot Socks £19.99

'Total comfort'



Tested by Alison Silcox for three years

It's an extravagance to have specific socks for riding, but these are worth the investment. I've worn them for over five years, particularly on longer trips, when comfort's essential, and they're great. Made from merino wool, they keep my feet comfortable, whatever the weather, and being calf length helps to ensure that boots don't chafe. They've held their shape in the wash and the elasticated cuff is firm enough to avoid any slipping sock issues and it's not lost any of it's strength over the years either.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
edzlayering.com

6000 miles
ON TEST