



**BEST  
COMFORT**

## Alpinestars S-MX Plus

**£259.99**

Tested by Joe Dick



As Staff Photographer, I often ride for days at a time on photoshoots and that means comfort is paramount. These

Alpinestars S-MX Plus boots fitted like Cinderella's glass slipper from the moment I put them on and 14,000 miles later, they're more than bedded in. I even slept in them, when I was stuck in the Alps last year! Comfort aside, their inner drawstring, single zip, Velcro and ratchet strap fastening system means they stay in place but remain easy to get on and off, unlike a lot of race boots out there. The drawstring can be a little fiddly to tuck in, but that's about the only gripe I have. The toe sliders are solid and easily replaced, with a well-positioned grub screw. The white areas can be hard to keep clean though, especially after a few thousand miles between wipe downs. Although they command quite a high price, these have become my go-to riding boots and will be hard to replace in the future. They should be good for a few thousand miles yet.

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

## LONGTERM KIT TRIED & TESTED

**SDoc100 Total  
Cleaner £15.99**

Tester Dan Sutherland  
Time tested Ten washes, two bikes, three months

This Gel Cleaner from SDoc100 has kept both my Kawasaki ZX-6R and Suzuki SV650X test bike gleaming. It's pH neutral and all you need to do is spray it onto the bike, work it lightly with a sponge and rinse. The results are good although it can't clear the most stubborn chain lube from the back of the bike.

Verdict ★★★★★

Contact [www.motohaus.com](http://www.motohaus.com)



**Held Timber  
Sliders £38.99**

Tester Michael Neeves  
Time tested One Cadwell Park trackday

Wooden sliders hark back to the late 80s and early 90s when they were the preserve of Nankai and RS Taichi-suited factory 500cc GP riders. Happily, these Held versions are harder, slightly louder and not as grabby on the track surface as the originals.

Verdict ★★★★★

Contact [www.held-uk.co.uk](http://www.held-uk.co.uk)



**Sidi ST £274.99**

Tested by Richard Newland



I really admire the technical thinking that's gone into these. I used to wear the Vortice, but found their fiddly closures a faff too far. The system on the STs is great though. The secure diagonal zip and Velcro closure is backed up by the neat hinged double-clasp rear section, which gives huge support while also making it effortless to get them on and off. Once they're on they're pretty comfortable, but lack the trainer-like cossetting of Alpinestars' Supertech Rs. I wouldn't want to wear them for a long day of riding and walking without some thick socks. They're well vented and cool on hot days but also manage to resist the odd light shower. The only other criticisms I have relate to the little rubber inserts in the heel guards, some of which are working free. And on several different bikes I've had the external hinge of the heel brace get snagged on the bike's heel guards. But overall, they offer superb protection and decent comfort. They are a great sports boot that I happily use for everyday riding.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★  
www.feridax.com

## Dainese Torque D1

**£289.95**

Tested by Matt Wildee



I've used these for commuting, road tests, weekend ride-outs and trackdays and they have performed well. Internal lacing allows a snug fit and there is plenty of feel, while outer hinged plastic armour gives enough security for confidence, while still allowing flexibility. Like old-school Italian boots, they're a bit slow to bed in, but they do feel protective. Finish has stood up well and they still look great. I have worn more comfortable boots (I use the insoles from my old hiking trainers for more comfort) and the magnesium sliders are also good but thin, so if you drag your toes a lot then they will wear out reasonably quickly. Leave them for too long and you will damage the screws.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★  
www.dainese.com



## Sidi Vortice £322

Tested by Jordan Gibbons



These are probably the most complicated boots I've owned. Securing your foot into the boot is a Velcro flap, a zip, a Tecno-II bridge wrap and two Tecno VR ratchets. That might sound like a nightmare but it means you can really dial in the fit and they're incredibly comfortable. As the proud owner of a ruined ankle, the hinged ankle gives me support, but it also gives the boot a very light touch, allowing for increased levels of feel when using the foot controls. Like all Sidi products, virtually all of the parts can be replaced with just a screwdriver, so if you have a tumble they don't have to go in the bin. The only downside to all these zips and buckles is that it makes the boots expensive, but a quick search online shows plenty of places selling them for quite a bit cheaper than the RRP.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★  
www.feridax.com

**Motorex chain  
lube £12.99**

Tester Michael Guy  
Time tested 6000 miles, five months

The white formula means you can see where you've sprayed to ensure your chain is coated. Providing I've given it enough time to soak in, I've experienced only minimal fling. The can has good pressure, but the nozzle allows you to have some control over the speed the lube comes out, so you can get it where you want it.

Verdict ★★★★★

Contact [www.motorex.com](http://www.motorex.com)

