



TRIED & TESTED
MCN STAFF RATE THEIR RIDING KIT
★★★★★

THREE MONTHS

Spidi All Road CE jacket/trousers £499.99/£329.99

‘Warm but should come with a back protector’

Tested for by Dan Sutherland for three months, 1200 miles
Comes with all the adjustment, zips, pockets and liners you could hope for in a textile suit. The jacket and trousers are available separately, with the jacket standing out as the superior garment. Warm, well-made, genuinely all-day comfortable and waterproof, it's the best-fitting textile jacket I have used. The storm flap around the neck keeps the weather out brilliantly, without causing irritation. Protection-wise, the spec is pretty high: both the jacket and trousers score a solid AA rating in CE tests, while higher-spec Level 2 armour is fitted at the shoulders, elbows, hips and knees. I would, however, like to see it come

with a back protector as standard. The design shows up any splats of road muck clearly, so be warned.
The trousers have plenty of adjustment and pockets. I like how slim fitting they are, while still being able to accommodate sporty boots. That said, they aren't as warm as the jacket and I would recommend stapping on base layers underneath for colder rides.
Value ★★★★★ Quality ★★★★★
www.feridax.com

- PROS & CONS**
- + Comfortable, waterproof, decent CE scores
 - No back protector as standard, chilly trousers



Plenty of vents and you can fine tune the fit as well



TCX ST-Fighter GTX £249.99

‘Reassuringly solid and waterproof’

Tested by Mike Armitage for three months, 500 miles
TCX are my favourite boot brand and these demonstrate why. The rugged construction and substantial armour give the impression that you could thrust a foot through an errant driver's door. In CE testing the boots score a near-full-house 2-2-2-1: maximum marks for everything but rigidity. Gore-Tex keeps dismal weather firmly on the outside, and I've worn them all day thanks to a cushioned and breathable 'Ortholite footbed' along with 'micro-injected' inserts. Whatever they are.
At £250 these ain't cheap, but you get what you pay for. Admittedly they haven't endured my sweaty plates of meat for thousands of miles yet – but, having previously been impressed by TCX products, I've every belief these will be as robust, long-term comfortable and weatherproof as I've come to expect from the brand.
Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.nevis.uk.com

500 MILES

Alpinestars neck warmer £10.99

Tested by Michael Neeves for five years and over 150,000 miles
With the exception of the very hottest of days I wear this polyester neck warmer every time I ride, making it my most-used piece of kit by far and, with the exception of earplugs, the cheapest, too. Soft, warm and comfortable, it's just the right length to keep the wind out without being bulky. I've washed it hundreds of times and it probably deserves retirement now, but it always comes up like new and keeps going strong.
Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.alpinestars.com



Stick it on, click it in... but your phone may get wet

Oxford Cliqr £29.99

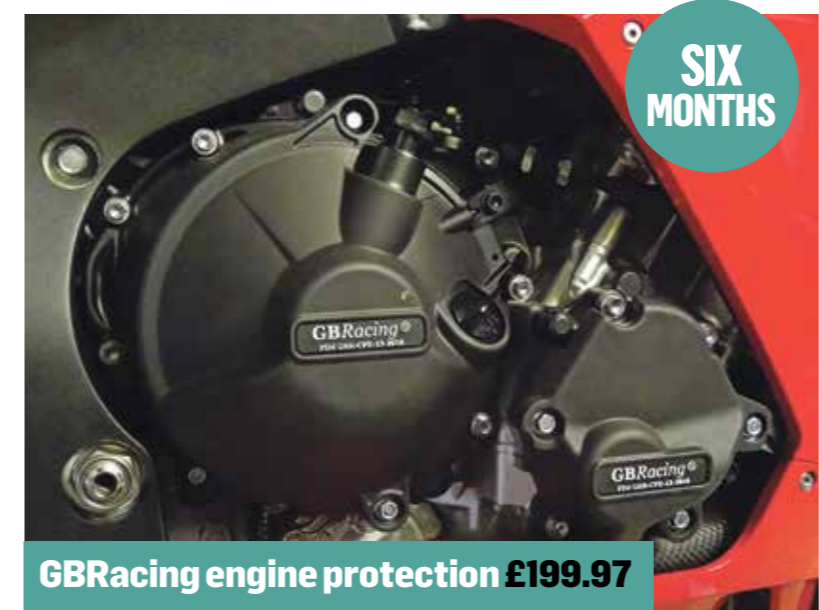
‘Quick, simple and affordable’

Tested by Martin Fitz-Gibbons for three months, 500 miles
All manner of clever mounting systems offer to keep your smartphone in view while you ride but few are as simple or as affordable as Oxford's Cliqr. Stick one square plastic pad on the back of your phone case, clamp the bracket to your 22mm handlebar (one hex bolt), and bingo: one quick-release mount. Obviously it offers no weather protection or vibration insulation. Having your precious phone held in place with glue feels a bit disconcerting, but it's held firm so far – it remains to be seen how the adhesive stands up to time, rain and varying temperatures. I'm not mad keen leaving that little mounting square on my phone case 24/7 either. But for folk who don't want a bulkier, more expensive case-based setup, it's worth a look.
Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.oxfordproducts.com

1500 MILES

PROS & CONS

- + Affordable and easy to fit to your bike in seconds
- Relies on the adhesive pad, no rain protection



SIX MONTHS

GBRacing engine protection £199.97

‘Trusted by MotoGP teams’

Tested by Emma Franklin for six months, 2500 miles
Fortunately, I've not tested the protective properties of these tough, high-impact nylon composite covers; that's been taken care of by the scores of BSB, WSB and MotoGP teams who use them to keep their valuable engine cases safe, as well as the track surface free from oil contamination. As such, they're also approved for high-level race use by the FIM, bikesport's governing body, which is very reassuring. Fitting them is really easy (this set is for my Fireblade) as they're very well made and come with full instructions and all the fixings (you'll need to swap out some standard bolts for longer ones). I don't think they ruin the bike's looks, either, a worry that has made me reluctant to fit crash protection in the past. This kit comes with covers for the alternator, clutch and pulse generator, but each can be purchased separately.
Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.gbracing.eu



Keis G701 heated gloves £199 (+ £82 for two batteries)

‘Fluffy and warm’

Tested by Bruce Dunn for four months, 1000 miles
The latest heated gloves from Keis are made from a stretchy bonded textile outer which makes them extremely comfortable. Slipping your hand inside the Thinsulate interior is a bit of a treat as it feels really fluffy and warm, even when the gloves are turned off. Once they're turned on via the easy-access rubberised button on the backs of the hands, the G701s warm up fast. There are three heat settings and the optional batteries installed in the back of the wrists easily last a couple of hours. The gloves come with an in-line fused lead to power them direct from the bike's 12v battery, which is definitely the way to go.
Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.keisapparel.com

1000 MILES

MCN 5000 R5K READERS' TOP FIVE GARAGE GOODIES



1 **SGX 50 Litre Direct Drive Air Compressor £119.99**
About six months ago my old compressor died, so I bought this one. It may not be huge but it makes jobs a lot easier. Steve Slater, Chepstow

2 **Facom T Handle Hex Key Set £68.95**
They make access easy and the long handle applies lots of torque for seized bolts or budging thread lock. Lee Harrison, Manchester

3 **Display 4 Top Variable Speed Dryer £47.99**
Dries the bike perfectly. The pet-branded ones are cheaper too! Richard Bentham, Bristol

4 **Tecmate Optimate 4 £69.99**
I bought this to replace my original Optimate. Nifty piece of kit. Nigel Maplethorpe, Grantham

5 **ABBA Superbike Stand & Motoglide £102.95 & £109.90**
The Motoglide makes the world of difference for moving the bike around. Rob Bellingham, Redditch

REVIEW YOUR KIT IN MCN
Got a product you want to shout about? Let us know via the #ride5000miles Facebook group