



Zipped cuffs work well with biking gloves

Tucano Urbano 3G Mesh Jacket £119.99

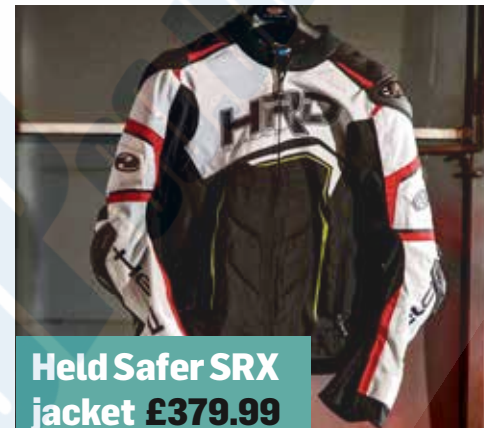
'Great when it's warm'

Tested by Michael Neeves for three months/4000 miles



Tucano Urbano don't claim this mesh jacket will make you look cool, although being designed and engineered in Italy it does a pretty good job. Instead, it definitely keeps you cool, especially during an abnormally hot British summer. Certified to CE class A it's nicely stitched together from a lightweight mesh fabric with polyimide reinforcements and a polyester inner lining. There are lots of handy inner and outer pockets, a pouch at the back for your drink, protection from the zip on your fuel tank and a wide, zippable cuffs. It's heavily vented around the front, back and arms, which makes it the perfect jacket for soaring temperatures, or if you're just one of those people who naturally run hot and appreciate the relief of extra cooling. With the central heating of a lizard, the jacket is too cold for me to don at anything less than 20 degrees but wearing a thick mid-layer top underneath is perfect for keeping off the chill.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.tucanourbano.com



Held Safer SRX jacket £379.99

'Keeps bad weather out'

Tested by Gareth Evans over six months/3000 miles



In its bulkiest form with the wind- and waterproof membrane it's a snug fit and very warm. Take the liner out (the tabs to fasten it could be stronger) and it still fits very well, but with enough venting to feel light and loose. Apart from the tabs, it feels very robust, with strong zips and double stitching. I have no qualms about throwing it on quickly for a ride out. It's got a pair of inside pockets alongside the two exterior ones, while there is provision for optional chest and back protectors. And finally, it's got a connecting zip to fasten it to the accompanying trousers, meaning a proper seal.

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



More to it than meets the eye

Alpinestars Stratos V2 Techshell Drystar jacket £219.99

'Urban style, proper tech'

Tested by Bruce Dunn for six months/3000 miles



At a glance this looks like a thick hoody and not at all like the techy piece of bike kit it really is, but the styling incorporates a waterproof and breathable membrane that is comfortable and flexible. On the move, there is virtually no penetration of cold air and warmth is further boosted by a removable thermal fleece lining. The fleece lining can even be worn on its own.

It has some detail features that set it apart from similar products on the market, such

as a waterproof pocket, and an extended rear panel that keeps the wind from howling up your back. Although some may not appreciate the hood, I found that the high collar it creates keeps drafts out.

It comes with CE shoulder and elbow amour and has provision for a back protector. It's a versatile and cool-looking jacket that is also up to the job of keeping you warm, dry and protected. At a little over £200, this is by no means a cheap bit of kit, but it's versatile enough to be worn in most conditions.

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



Rev'It! Avenue 3 GTX £539.99

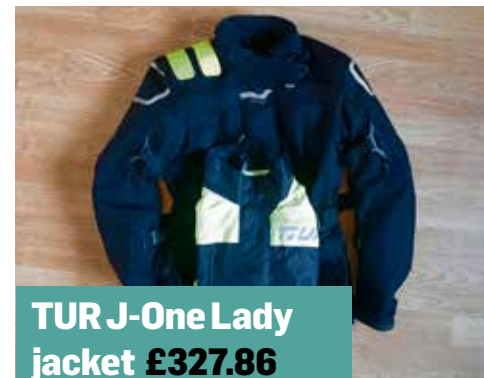
'Makes me look cooler than I am'

Tested by Mike Armitage for three months / 500 miles



While waterproofing, breathability and protection can be superb, some kit still looks and feels... well, dated. Which is why I like this Rev'It! jacket. Trendy parka lines make me feel cooler than I am, it's lightweight and comfy, and the (removable) thermal lining is like snuggling into a duvet. Removable hood, too. Yet it's still pukka kit. Sure, the Avenue 3 is designed for hip urban scooterists, but it works on proper bikes on open roads. Its laminated Gore-Tex, long cut and high collar stop wet stuff getting in, cuffs open wide to accept bulky gloves, and an elasticated inner waist band keeps the wind out. It's also AA rated for protection and has pleasingly discreet armour. Shop around online and you'll find it for £100 less than list price – or even cheaper.

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



TUR J-One Lady jacket £327.86

'Lovely but a bit of a pain'

Tested by Emma Franklin for four months/ 2500 miles



A three-in-one design featuring a vented Cordura jacket, a lightweight 150g thermal inner, as well as a pull-on waterproof over jacket.

The main jacket has been great for summer as it really helps you keep your cool. However, despite the outer jacket claiming to be 100% waterproof courtesy of its fixed membrane, those huge vents mean that it's not at all. Hence why it also comes with a pull-on waterproof outer jacket. It's a lovely jacket – but it's just a pain that you have to pull on the over-jacket to get total waterproofing.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.t-ur.com