

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



Leather palm for decent feel

2000 miles ON TEST



Push the button to toggle between three settings

Weise Ion textile heated gloves £199.99

'No wires, just warm fingers'

Tested by Dan Sutherland for three months
 These Weise Ion gloves are battery powered, meaning no fawning with wires, and feature hard knuckle armour, plus a soft interior. Simply plug the batteries into their pouches in the cuffs, press the button, and you're away. Not only are they easy to use, but they also allowed me to continue my circa 110-mile round trip to the office through the colder months in comfort, without being distracted by dangerously cold fingers – something I struggle with particularly badly. The vast majority of my testing so far has been done on a 2023 Suzuki GSX-8S, which I had as a longterm test bike and was equipped with the brand's optional heated grips. The Suzuki's extras weren't enough to keep my hands warm on their own but were more than up to the job when working with the Weise mitts – transforming winter rides into

something I could enjoy, rather than something I'd actively avoid. Regardless of the bike I'm riding though, I've very rarely had to go onto the highest of the three settings – the gloves doing a perfectly respectable job with the low and middle options, and easily adjusted on the fly. However, like many other winter gloves, there seems to be a trade-off between warmth and protection – with the Ions lacking much of the hard armour found on products designed for warmer parts of the year. Also, the blue light to signify the coolest setting can give the impression you've got an emergency vehicle behind you when riding at night, if you catch it in your peripheral vision. They are better than some other options though, featuring hard knuckle protection, and extra padding around parts of the fingers and palm, with a rating of KP1. The Thinsulate interior is also nice and soft against your hand, and there's been no braking in required.

The 2200 mAh batteries offer up to four hours of charge but will naturally decrease faster on higher settings. I can comfortably complete my 1.5-hour ride to the office on a medium setting, with some juice to spare. Although more convenient than wires, the batteries in the cuffs do make them feel quite bulky – making them hard to slip over a jacket sleeve. On one occasion, I left them charging at home for a full evening, for one to then fully discharge almost immediately. **Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★ www.weiseclothing.com**

- PROS & CONS**
- + Soft comfortable interior, easily adjusted, hand knuckle armour
 - Lacking hard armour, bulky cuffs, long charge time



Knuckle armour scores them a KP1 rating

Batteries slot into the cuffs: It's easy but does make them a bit bulky



Armour is concealed inside

1000 miles ON TEST



Cool looks but it's pukka gear

Roadskin Easyrider II £139.99

'Heftier than your average hoodie'

Tested by Ben Clarke for 12 months
 From the first second I put the Easyrider on, I could tell there was more going on than in previous hoodies I've tested. It feels hefty (and actually quite heavy) but in a reassuring way – like it would actually make a difference if you suffered the misfortune of a spill. Riding hoodies are often A-rated, and so an AA-rating is above average. I've worn hoodies before where the elbow armour in particular flaps around all over the place in the breeze and leaves me wondering if it would be where I needed it to be in a slide. But because of the way the armour in the Roadskin is stitched to the lining (which fits closely to your skin), it stays put even at the national speed limit. You also get a pukka CE Level 2 back protector included, which is beyond my expectation at this price point and type of garment. Best of all, at £139.99, it is one of the cheapest products of its type on the market right now despite its protective qualities. I would definitely spend my own money on one. **Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★ www.roadskin.co.uk**



Textile/leather with armour too

Halvarsson Butorp gloves £124.99

'Dry in the worst of weathers'

Tested by Al Silcox for four months
 Made from a combination of textile and goat leather, these gloves have done the business through some awful weather. While the Dryway+ membrane has kept my hands dry, there's also a special Outlast liner to regulate the temperature – that said, they aren't the thickest of gloves and the combination of textile fingers with goatskin palm won't keep the coldest temperatures at bay. These are a female-specific fit, come in a full range of sizes, and are true to size. One slight criticism would be the length of the cuff. The material could be a fraction longer for when you are tucking the gloves under your jacket sleeves. If you prefer to tuck sleeves into your gloves, the same problem arises. A fraction more length on the cuff would solve it. The gloves feel suitably rugged and in terms of safety, CE Level 1, hard knuckle protection fits in place, without digging in, and there's protection on the palm and scaphoid. They have a one-year warranty, and they feel like they will last much longer than that. So far, they show no signs of wear, even though they've been used in some deluges. Velcro wrist and cuff fasteners are as good today as they were on the first wear. The touchscreen fingertip, on the right index finger, works and little touches such as the special Skinfit TXR liner, to keep the lining in place, are great additions. If you are in the market for a pair of touring gloves, that offer warmth without bulk, a decent level of protection and are a fair price, these could be the ones for you. **Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★ bikerheadz.co.uk**

2000 miles ON TEST



They're proper miracle potions

3250 miles ON TEST

Muc-Off Visor Cleaner and Anti-Fog £6/£11

'I can see clearly now...'

Tested by Justin Hayzelden for three months
 Quite often it's the little things in life that make the biggest difference, and pound for pound these handy-sized 32ml visor sprays from Muc-Off pack a prize-winning punch. They are each about the size of a chunky marker pen, you can tuck them away pretty much anywhere – in a pocket, rucksack or under a seat – so they're always to hand when you need them. A couple of quick pumps of the Helmet, Visor & Goggle Cleaner makes short work of

insect guts, post-rain staining or general filth, quickly softening any stuck-on detritus and requiring nothing more than a gentle wipe with a microfibre cloth to clean off. The Anti-Fog demands a little more effort, but is worth its weight in gold, especially on my spectacles, which usually mist up at the merest suggestion of cold weather. Spray on a light coat, then buff out any streaks with a tissue, and it keeps them condensation free for about a week. It works just as well on the inside of a visor, too. **Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★ muc-off.com**



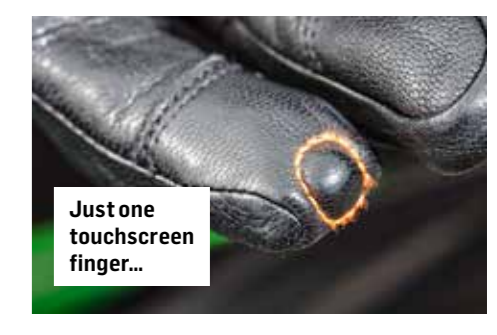
A-rated but ideal around town

LS2 Bullet jacket £149.99

'Retro bargains'

Tested by Emma Franklin for six months
 Smart, well-fitting and sprinkled with features, this waterproof textile is brilliant value. Being lightweight and lacking a thermal lining, it's ideal for late spring/summer use and has a clever ventilation panel down the front. Rain resistance comes courtesy of a fixed waterproof/breathable membrane. There are loads of pockets, including a three internal – one of which is waterproof. There's Level 1 soft armour at the shoulders and elbows (which can be adjusted) plus a pouch for a back protector. The only thing that takes the shine off is the Bullet is only CE rated to the lowest A-rating for abrasion protection. **Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★ www.ls2helmets.com**

1250 miles ON TEST



Just one touchscreen finger...