



Zerofit is worn close to the body

It has kept its shape well, too



5000 miles ON TEST

## Zerofit Cold Skin Baselayer £55

### 'Gloriously cool in hot weather'



**Tested by Justin Hayzelden for one year**

I find that staying cool can be a real problem in warm weather, especially if I'm not getting the airflow for effective ventilation. Moisture wicking base layers go a certain way towards alleviating the issue however the Zerofit Cold Skin actually feels cool against the body as soon as you put it on. It needs to fit closely to work properly, so getting it on does require a bit of tugging and twisting, but it's tough enough to be pulled about time and time again, and I haven't noticed any drop in elasticity even after a year's use. It's very comfortable to wear with little to no friction against other layers. The combination of moisture wicking and quick drying properties further adds to that cooling sensation and it can feel positively cold when you do get airflow. I experienced this in the extreme when sitting at a café after 14 miles of slow-going gravel trail in the Italian Alps. I was practically shivering in the sun when I took my jacket off and was exposed to a light breeze – it was absolutely glorious!

**Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★**  
zerofit.co.uk



People often say that they're surprised that these are riding boots

## LS2 Acrux £114.99

### 'Comfortable, cheap urban footwear'



**Tested by Gareth Evans for six months**

I was surprised to learn that LS2 were making riding gear as well as the excellent-value helmets that they've been known for previously and thought that I'd bag a pair of these Acrux boots to see what the deal was. Like the firm's lids, they're at the cheaper end of the market but they're hardly lacking in features, either, so I was curious to see how they'd stack up in the real world.

I feel like I've walked almost as far as I've ridden in these boots because I often wear them for work days, commuting on the bike and then spending 8-9 hours around the office, out on photo shoots and lunchtime walks, and I've also used them as my only footwear on a bike launch, navigating airport, launch, hotel and even my evening out.

Suffice it to say that they have seriously impressed me as far as comfort goes because I simply wouldn't have done that otherwise.

They're on the casual side of the spectrum, wear them with a pair of jeans and few people will recognise that they're riding boots.

Actually I think it's a ringing endorsement of a boot if you're happy to wear it regardless of whether you're riding or not. They're very light, which definitely helps matters, and I like the comfortable mesh liner, but they're well supported, too, featuring such things as a properly reinforced heel and ankle.

I'm a big fan of the lace strap when riding, which keeps my laces away from footpegs, gear and brake levers. The laces themselves are strong and easy to tighten, with no fraying evident during my test. There's a gear change protector on the left boot, too.

Something has to give at this price point, however, and while they're well supported in the ankle, heel and toe box these boots carry a CE rating of 1 for height and transverse rigidity, meaning that they could be better in both respects. However, they do have a rating of 2 for abrasion resistance and impact cut.

The only real negative that I can come up with here, though, is that I can say quite emphatically that they're not waterproof, despite the 'spring, summer and autumn' classification that LS2 give them.

I've ridden in several rainstorms in them during my test period and had to dry them out afterwards.

**Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★**  
www.ls2helmets.com

2500 miles ON TEST

Zippered pockets are very useful



Pull-cord bag is great for storage



3400 miles ON TEST

## Rukka Down-X 2.0 jacket £199.99

### 'The cure for cold jackets!'



**Tested by Simon Relph one year, four months**

Over a lifetime of year-round biking I have found that some jackets that I have worn may have kept me dry but would never keep me warm. But finally I have some good news – I have found the perfect cure for cold jackets! It comes in the form of the Rukka Down-X 2.0 jacket, which is light weight, filled with down and feathers – (90/10 ratio) and can be worn as a liner under most motorcycle jackets. It takes up very little space even though it is

light and thin. And boy, does it help to keep you warm. It is also great if you are touring and tight on space because it can be worn as a jacket in its own right, not just as something that you wear underneath. It zips up at the front with zip-up pockets either side and two pouch style pockets inside left and right. The jacket also comes with a neat little pull-cord bag with the Rukka 'R' logo emblazoned on it which the jacket packs up into so that it can be stored easily when it's not in use. Perfect.

**Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★**  
www.tranam.co.uk



Works well and smells nice

## Oxford Mint chain cleaner £12.99 (500ml)

### 'Cut through all of the chain crud'



**Tested by Steve Herbert for one year**

I like to have a clean chain but hate doing the job, so I really want something that's going to cut through the crud quickly and restore my chain to its grime-free, shiny best with as little effort on my part as is humanly possible. Oxford's Mint range is universally good stuff and the chain cleaner works exactly as I want it to. A generous spray while rotating the rear wheel, a quick scrub with a toothbrush and a brief wipe with a cloth is all it takes to make the links look factory-fresh once again. It's suitable for O, Z and X ring chains, too. It's easy to use and lasts extremely well but is also environmentally-friendly, no animal testing. It smells quite nice, too.

**Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★**  
www.oxfordmint.co.uk

12 months ON TEST