



Stirrups keep them firmly in position

7 months

Oxford AA Original Approved Leggings WS Black R £119.99

'Built for summer'

Tested by Saffron Wilson for 3611 miles / 7 months



Billed as the world's first AA-approved single-layer leggings, I was immediately intrigued by these women's trousers from Oxford.

Previously, I'd only ever worn jeans for summer riding, but as I was heading to America at the height of summer, I thought it was a great time to try something that was a little more breathable while still offering just as much protection.

Overall, they work really well, although it felt a little odd to be riding in leggings initially. But, I found the flexible Level 2 knee protectors that came with the leggings a little too bulky, so while using them I swapped for a less-bulky armour (although this was only Level 1 protection) in the knees, while keeping the same hip protectors.

Oxford's Armourlite fabric has a four-way stretch while still offering great abrasion resistance and is pleasantly breathable too. The only thing I would want included is a pocket, but I like the high waist – it's very flattering.

They come in sizes 8-20 and three leg lengths as well. Plus, when you get them on, they are comfy as can be, perfect for summer riding.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.oxfordproducts.com



Ruroc Atlas 4.0 Raw Carbon £475

'Be a super Trooper'

Tested by Richard Newland 1750 miles / three months



The first thing you can't help but notice with this helmet is the styling. Looking like a piece of costume from a *Star Wars* movie,

you could go for a white one and live out your Storm Trooper fantasies, or go further to the dark side – as I have with the Raw Carbon finish.

The build quality feels great, with the T300 Raw Carbon version revealing a uniformly high level of finish, while all trim and venting is nicely integrated. The matt carbon surface does mark extremely easily, though. The rear vent is always open, and has a reasonable aperture, while the small brow vent can be opened and closed with an external slider. But the chin vent uses an internal slider that's near impossible to access when wearing the helmet. Neither have very big apertures (don't be fooled by how big the vent grilles look), so the airflow isn't much different open or closed – especially as the Rheon-enabled energy absorbing helmet lining covers the brow vents.

The side vents aren't actually vents – but all are pleasingly quiet and having worn the Atlas from sub-zero to +18°C, I felt comfortable at all times.

The lining is plush, and comfy, and the smooth EPS means none of those ridged head imprints you get with some lids. The visors are good, the PinLock integration excellent, and the big tab to open/close the visor is useful – but the visor doesn't lock shut. Switching visors just requires a quarter-turn of the two retaining thumbscrews (no tools needed) – but the ridges are a bit too small for easy operation, and while visors pop off easily, they can be a complete pig to relocate.

The chin strap closure is an initially terrifying 'Fidlock' magnetic clasp, which releases with so little effort on the pull-tab that you'll be convinced it'll undo if the wind changes, but it's actually reassuringly secure. Closing it does take some getting used to, but once you've got the technique, it's a doddle.

Overall, a great helmet that's comfortable, decently quiet, certified to the latest ECE22.06 standard, well made, and priced fairly – although the lack of branding makes it look somehow lower quality than it is.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.ruroc.com

3 months



9 months

Oxford Products General Protectant £8.99

'Works well – and smells great'

Tested by Gareth Evans for 4000 miles / nine months



If there's one way to encourage bikers to keep their bikes protected, it's to design products like this spray, that make your entire garage smell incredible. That's right, it's Mint by name and minty by nature, with an aroma that feels like it could clear your sinuses. It's a general protectant, and works by forming a film over your bike's surfaces to prevent water seeping in and doing damage. It's particularly well suited to winterising your pride and joy before tucking

it out of harm's way in the garage.

You simply shake the rather appealingly matte-finished can, spray it onto the parts you want to protect – moving, metal fixtures and fittings, rubber seals and electronics are all fair game, but be careful not to apply it to brake or chain components. There are other Oxford products to help with those.

I found it kept the Yamaha R7 looking pristine, and it was noticeably easier to wash the bike too, with dirt simply not adhering in the way I'd expect.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.oxfordproducts.com



Vanucci VXR WP Trousers £104.67

'Effective but also expensive'

Tested by Ben Clarke for 1000 miles / six months



These waterproof over trousers from Vanucci are intended for use with the brand's VAT-2 riding trousers, which are only water

resistant, for when the weather gets very moist. You could, of course, also wear them over any brand of riding kit, though. Let's start with the positive, they are very waterproof. That should be a given but very often isn't in my experience. They also have a slight stretch to the fabric that means you can swing your leg over the bike easily. On the negative side, even with the expansion zips open on the lower legs they are a real struggle to pull over boots, and they are astronomically expensive.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
louis-moto.co.uk

1000 MILES