



### Facom J.1613/8in ratchet, £37.37



**Tester:** Tony Hoare

**Time tested:** Four years

**What's good?** The smooth operation of this dinky 3/8in Facom ratchet is a delight, and the fact it has 72 teeth in the ratchet means it will work in more confined spaces. The extra teeth (my perfectly serviceable Halfords set only has 45 teeth) means it doesn't need to rotate as far to be effective. Just small swings are all that's needed. I'm not a tool snob, and I know that complete socket sets are available from Argos for less than the price of this, but this came as a freebie with a magazine subscription and has been a worthy addition to my toolbox.

**What's not?** You need to know you'll be making regular use of it to justify the expense. The other risk is that the beautiful action might make your regular tools feel a shade sub-standard.

**Contact:** www.facom.com

**Quality rating:** ★★★★★

**Value rating:** ★★★★★



### Abus Detecto 7000RS2 disc lock, £120



**Tester:** Andy Downes

**Time tested:** Three years

**What's good?** As long as I have a little bit of room available in a bag, pannier, or under the seat this disc lock goes with me as a visible and audible deterrent to scumbag thieves. It's got great build quality, the key is small but sturdy, and the storage bag means it doesn't bash the bike if stored under the seat. The alarm is 110dB and there is a flashing LED light, and a stretchy cable to attach to the handlebars so I don't ride off with it still in place. It can also be carried in the locked position without the movement sensor triggering and the alarm going off.

**What's not?** It's not cheap, but then it's cheaper than an insurance claim excess and the resulting rise in premium if my bike gets stolen.

**Contact:** www.abus.com/uk

**Quality rating:** ★★★★★

**Value rating:** ★★★★★

# Cool and comfortable

Protection, style and fit combine in the Dainese T Avro

## Dainese T Avro race suit, £960 (now superseded by Aspide)



**Tester:** Andy Downes

**Time tested/miles:** Six months/2500 miles

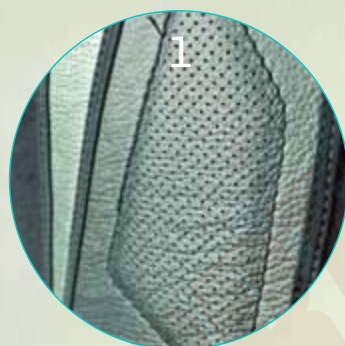
**What's good:** The quality and fit of these leathers has been brilliant; even from the first time I put them on they were comfortable, and with the stretchy panels on the legs, chest and arms it fitted brilliantly. The close fit ensures the armour isn't going to be moving around in the event of a crash. I love the understated style, and the protection offered by the armour promises to be excellent. In really hot weather on track

last year these leathers were great at keeping me cool, thanks to vent holes across the whole suit. **What's not?** One piece leathers are often expensive and they aren't suitable for everyone, but if you can put up with the compromise then they offer great safety. These work best with the Dainese boots that go on the inside of the legs, which adds more cost, although they will work with normal boots too.

**Contact:** www.dainese.com

**Quality rating:** ★★★★★

**Value rating:** ★★★★★



### Top 3 details

1. Vented panels keep you cool.

2. Sliders are tough and durable.

3. Designed to work with Dainese's own boots, but will work with regular boots, too.



## Holroyd Race-Tech tyre warmers, £99



**Tester:** Emma Franklin

**Time tested:** Two years

**What's good?** Holroyd tyre warmers are certainly robust. Tyre warmers can really get put through it in the heat of a race weekend – torn off in a hurry, left in a heap on the floor, put away warm – and lesser warmers always end up only lasting half a season. But these are still as good as new after two seasons. In terms of spec they are basic and don't have any fancy temperature control, which means you cannot use them for road tyres, but for build quality and value I can't fault them. Plus they're British made and come complete with a handy storage bag.

**What's not:** I really don't like the pull-cords and toggles. They're fiddly and time-consuming to take on and off, and sometimes get lost inside the warmer.

**Contact:** www.holroydtyrewarmers.co.uk

**Quality rating:** ★★★★★

**Value rating:** ★★★★★



## MT Le Mans helmet, £54.99



**Tester:** Steve Hunt

**Time tested:** Six months/400 miles

**What's good?** This is a quality open-face lid for a pretty amazing price, from Spanish firm MT. The excellent faux-leather lining is extremely well-padded, and because the EPS (expanded polystyrene) liner is of varying thickness across the circumference of the lid, MT have rid the helmet of unnecessary bulk. The gloss white finish is deep and pure (they also do a gloss black, matt black and the now-obligatory Union Flag), and the detachable peak means that on those days when the mood takes you, it's possible to go full-on 'Steve McQueen'.

**What's not?** It has a tendency to sit higher on the head than other open-faces I've tried. But as this helmet is approved for use in both Europe and America, I have a feeling that this is down to MT adding extra protection where it's needed and if so, I'd make that compromise every time.

**Contact:** www.tri-motive.com

**Quality rating:** ★★★★★

**Value rating:** ★★★★★