



Velcro keeps them secure



Decent grip and feel on the bars

Weise Dakar gloves £27.99

'Off-road comfort'



Tested by Saffron Wilson for 12 months

Last year, when I was running an Aprilia Tuareg as a long-term test bike, I rode off road a fair

bit. As a result, these gloves have had to endure some pretty tough conditions, including a rally in the middle of Wales, and they've held up a treat.

Being lightweight, breathable MX-style gloves they aren't waterproof (as you'd expect), but they are ideal for most conditions (as long as it's not freezing cold), and are comfortable thanks to the stretch mesh and Lycra construction.

Silicon printed fingertips help with grip as does the suede-style palm overlay which is very effective in the wet. The only downside is that, after a bit of use, the Neoprene cuff has been damaged by the Velcro and has become a little bit scrappy. But to be honest, with the amount of mud on them, they just look well used. They are great value, too.

Quality ★★★★★ **Value** ★★★★★
www.weiseclimbing.com

155
miles
ON TEST



Comfortable and leak-free

Merlin Solitude D30 Laminated Jacket £379.99

'Great fit, but the back protector feels thin'



Tested by Steve Herbert-Mattick for three months

While £380 is not cheap for a jacket, it is competitively priced and oozing quality touches. It

has a membrane bonded to the outer for better waterproofing and that means less faffing about with various different layers. The Solitude has a fully synthetic construction (big tick for us vegan bikers), has more pockets than I have stuff to put in them and comes with a detachable storm collar, thermal liner and D30 back, shoulder and elbow protectors.

There are well-designed adjusters on the forearms and waist and highly effective venting. The fit is good all over and so far, the supple fabric has been comfortable and leak-free. The cuff openings are generous enough to get touring gauntlets under. So there's a lot to like.

On first use, the D30 back protector felt so thin I had to check it was actually there. Having spent the last couple of years using CE Level 2 armour, it doesn't fill me with confidence and that's not what I want to be thinking about on a ride.

Quality ★★★★★ **Value** ★★★★★
www.merlinbikegear.com

3
months
ON TEST



Back protector is quality but only CE Level 1



3
months
ON TEST

It comes in three chain lengths

Oxford Hardcore XC13 1.5m chain lock £99.99

'Simple and solid security'



Tested by Gareth Evans for four months

If, like me, you appreciate a reassuring heft to your security products, you'll love this chain and lock. It's heavy, solid-feeling and best of all, simple to use. The 13mm Ni-Cro-Mo alloy links are what provide most of the weight, while the 11mm shackle and the lock body are constructed from hardened steel. The rubberised case is shock-proof and has a sliding keyhole cover to keep dust out.

All of these features equate to a Gold Sold Secure rating and a four-star ART

certification. Furthermore, the protective sleeve protects your wheels and bodywork from damage, and the lock comes with three keys and a choice of lengths: 1.2, 1.5 and 2.0 metres – with pricing going up in £10 increments respectively.

It's not alarmed, but I've been using it alongside a ground anchor at home and have other measures in place to alert me to intruders – this is meant specifically to slow them down. It's been a reliable and simple solution and I've no real negative feedback.

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



Load it up, strap it on, go touring

Kriega Rollpack 20 £129

'Lightweight but durable luggage'



Tested by Justin Hayzelden for three months

A lightweight luggage solution that's versatile, durable and easy to use. In essence, it's a tube of tough 500 denier Cordura, with a removable waterproof liner and roll top closure at either end. Measurements are 75cm x 36cm laid flat, which offers 20 litres of kit capacity. When loaded, the Rollpack 20 makes a neat pillow shaped bag that can be lashed to a seat, rack, or anywhere else you can loop the straps. Neat metal cam buckles ensure everything stays tensioned. I used this one on a tour of Ireland and even with torrential North Atlantic-driven downpours, not a drop of moisture made it inside.

Quality ★★★★★ **Value** ★★★★★
kriega.com

3
months
ON TEST