

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

Never get cold on a ride again

3750 miles
 ON TEST



Set it to 'Hi' and the heat reaches nuclear proportions



KEIS J505RP Extreme jacket & Heat Controller £225

'Making every ride a hot one'



Tested by Richard Newland for four months

Heat, glorious heat. In the depths of winter, it's impossible to overstate how welcome the enveloping warmth emanating from this jacket really is. Every ride, whether a 20-minute commute or a 500-mile day is transformed by the simple action of plugging in and setting the degree of toastiness desired.

This gear from Keis (say Kice) is the hottest in their range, delivering a claimed 25% more output than their J501RP from a full-sleeved fleece-like jacket designed to be worn beneath normal kit. While you can use their most powerful battery packs for a wireless solution, I use the battery connection loom, and plug-in to the bike. This means no range anxiety, no recharging, and a limitless supply of heat. You can run it from some cigarette-style power points, but not all as the draw (circa 6.5Amp) is greater than some bikes' outlet ratings.

You will definitely need to use the heat controller (supplied with the jacket, otherwise £37.50). Without it, you'll be too hot on any day when the temperature is above -5°C. The heat is near instantaneous, too – wrapping you in duvet-like comfort after just a minute of use.

The IP65 rated water-resistant heat controller plugs into a connector mounted inside one of the jacket's pockets, and sticks out the bottom of your outer jacket to allow easy access on the move. The three-stage heat settings go from a warming glow (green light) through to pretty damn warm (orange) and tops out at nuclear (red). And if you're off the bike, the controller can be stowed in the pocket, as can the connection lead (in its own compartment) and the sleeve connectors for Keis' heated gloves (there's also a connector for their heated trousers, too).

The J505RP is about as bulky as a fleece, and I find that removing my textile jacket's thermal liner results in a perfect fit. The only

pinch-point is that the bulk at the cuffs means wearing gloves under your outer sleeves can be a tight squeeze. The web of heated Micro Carbon Fibre elements is all-encompassing, meaning your torso, arms and even collar are all heated. The soft-shell fabric is beautifully comfy and doesn't snag on your outer garment, it's washable, breathable (so you don't get sweaty), and the array of pockets means it's great for wallet, keys, mobile, and as a jacket off the bike, too.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.keisapparel.com

PROS & CONS

- +** Comfy, warm in itself, and glorious when pumping heat
- It's a lot of money, but if you ride in winter it's invaluable

Plug in and you'll not run out of that welcome warmth



The jacket itself is no bulkier than a typical fleece