

THE MCN SHOWCASE

WINTER KIT HEATED GEAR

Switch on and banish the cold. But which really delivers?



The controller is an essential for regulating the output



- Fit and comfort rated
- Design, construction and CE scores rated
- Tested in British winter conditions

Fleece material is comfortable and not too bulky

5500
miles
ON TEST

KEIS J505RP Extreme jacket & heat controller £240

'Fend off winter's harshest bite'



Tested by Richard Newland for 12 months

It's impossible to overstate how welcome the enveloping warmth of this jacket is. Every ride, whether a quick 20-minute commute to the office or a 500-mile day in the saddle is utterly transformed by the simple act of plugging in and setting your preferred degree of toastiness from green, orange and red. It brings a whole new meaning to 'plug 'n' play'.

The J505RP Extreme is the hottest in the Keis range, delivering a claimed 25% more output than their J501RP (£200), offering a full-sleeved fleece-like jacket designed to be worn beneath your normal bike kit. While you can use their most powerful battery packs for a standalone low-heat solution, I use the provided battery connection lead (or the 12v plug connection when hopping between bikes), and plug-in direct to the bike to power every ride. This means no range anxiety, no concerns

over remembering to charge up, and a limitless supply of heat. Be aware that some cigarette-style power points can't cope with the circa 6.5Amp draw, so check the rating.

The jacket comes with an optional heat controller as part of the package (£38 separately). Without it, you'll be significantly too hot. The heat is near instantaneous – wrapping you in a duvet-like blanket of warmth after just a minute of use. The IP65 rated water-resistant heat controller plugs into a connector mounted inside one of the pockets, and sticks out from the bottom of your outer jacket to allow easy access.

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 lead (in its own zipped compartment) and the sleeve connectors which can be deployed to plug into Keis heated gloves (there are also connector

points for heated trousers). The J505RP is about as bulky as a fleece, and I find removing my textile jacket's thermal liner results in a perfect fit. The only pinch-point is that the bulk at the cuffs makes wearing gloves under your outer sleeves a tight squeeze.

The web of heated Micro Carbon Fibre elements is all-encompassing. It's washable, breathable, 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 seems like a lot of money, but if you ride in winter it's invaluable

Quality wiring can connect to Keis gloves and trousers for all-over heating



Micro Carbon Fibre for all-encompassing warmth