



TCX Hero 2 WP £229

'Real retro charm and practical too'



Tested by Simon Brown for three months

I love my Ducati Scrambler FT and like to look the part when out and about, so these retro boots from TCX are bang on the money with their classic yet understated looks blended with comfort and decent construction.

Height wise they are akin to something like a pair of eight-hole Dr Martens. They fasten with laces but there is a zip to the side to help ease them on and off. I was sceptical about the zip/lace combo thinking it might be a bit like and old person's Velcro shoes... but I've been pleasantly surprised. On the bike there is decent feel and plenty of grip, plus there is a gear change pad on both boots.

Off the bike an Ortholite insole makes for easy walking (I wear them all day on office days). The leather itself is soft full grain with what you might call a vintage finish, so the boots develop an appealing 'lived in' look (although they do mark quite easily).

CE approved (Level 2 for abrasion and impact cut), they have reinforcements on the ankle, heel and toe. A T-Dry membrane is there for keeping water out.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.tcxboots.com



Richa Slick WP £79.99

'Good, but can be a little sloppy'



Tested by Joseph Wright for two years

Excellent comfort both on and off the bike. Their flexible support and the clever

combination of laces and Velcro make them easily adjustable to fit your foot width and ankle girth. With the Velcro, you can avoid any embarrassing falls at traffic lights by tucking in the laces. Although the design is casual and sporty, the black and white colour scheme is reminiscent of bowling shoes, which may not be to everyone's taste. The all-black option is probably better for those who prefer a cleaner look. They're waterproof and provide excellent warmth for winter riding, but they lack breathability.

Unfortunately, the soles are quite smooth, which makes it challenging to manoeuvre the bike, especially at petrol stations. Protection includes leather reinforced heel and toe pads. Overall, a good choice for riders who prioritise flexibility over max protection.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
nevis.uk.com

10K miles ON TEST



Like trainers but they are CE Level 2

Forma Ground Dry £159.99

'Casual, comfortable and cool'



Tested by Justin Hayzelden for five months

I'm a big fan of shorter boots for the summer, and these Forma Ground Dry have become a firm favourite for fair weather commuting. Paired with some decent riding jeans, I love the fact that I can ride to work, wear them around the office, then put in a few extra miles on the way home without being laden down by a change of clothes in my rucksack.

The hi-top sneaker styling makes them innocuous enough to wear casually, yet they have a decent level of protection (CE Level 2

for impact cut and transverse rigidity) and have kept my toes dry in a summer shower. The only downside is that the suede is going shiny where it contacts the bike around the inner faces and gear change pad. It's certainly not the end of the world though, especially if, like me, you prefer the lived-in look.

At £160 the Forma Ground are not cheap boots, but they're well made and have proved suitably sturdy for daily abuse without sacrificing comfort. As a dual-purpose urban/casual option they're ideal.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
formaboos.com



Great but a narrow fit

TCX Blend WP £199.99

'Get urban style'



Tested by Al Silcox for nine months

Urban style boots with leather upper and waterproof membrane, which make them ideal for year-round riding. They sit comfortably under textile trousers, look great with riding jeans or jeggings. On the first couple of rides the boots felt stiff around the calf and shin, they weren't uncomfortable on the bike but did dig in a little when off the bike. Concealed laces mean they look neat and tidy. A gusset at the tongue keeps them watertight. The heavy-duty soles have a small heel, which can aid those who may be vertically challenged. CE approved to Level 2 for abrasion resistance, cut resistance and crushing, they have impact protection at the heels and toe, plus there's a gear change pad.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.nevis.uk.com

3000 miles ON TEST

Gaerne GP1 Evo £399.99

'The comfiest I've ever worn'



Tested by Dan Sutherland for three years

Looking back on all the sporty boots I've worn, if I could only wear one pair for the rest of my life, these would be them. Retailing at around £399.99 (now cheaper online), they are available in UK 7-12.5 and have armour at the heel, toe, and shin.

Opening up wide, to make sliding your leathers in nice and easy, there are no awkward inner boots. Ventilation is excellent. Downsides are few, however they are a bit squeaky to walk in, and the shin protection will make them too bulky to slip under some riding jeans.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.motogear.co.uk

10K miles ON TEST

