



Rukka Virium £180

'Pricy but great quality gloves'



Tested by Steve Herbert-Mattick for 18 months

The CE Level 1 Virium aren't new and are well known amongst vegan bikers. Fully waterproof, windproof and breathable Gore-Tex X-TRAFIT fabric means you can control touchscreen devices without having to take your gloves off (although cheaper phone cases with flexible plastic windows can interfere with it).

The construction is stiff to begin with, making them feel awkward and the toughness of the extra grip palms and Gore-Tex fabric doesn't flex well. Stick with them though, and once broken in they're supple and soft after a few dozen miles with no loss in performance.

The price is eye-watering for a three-season glove but they feel genuinely built to last. And because they've been around for a while, more palatable deals are available online especially since this model has been superseded by the not massively different Virium 2.0. If temperatures dip much below 10 degrees, without heated grips or handguards I'm reaching for something with more lining but the rest of the time these are my go-to gloves.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.bikerheadz.co.uk



Stylish but safe riding gear

Resurgence Sherpa Pekev jacket £315

'Cool and packed with protection'



Tested by Simon Relph for 18 months

I was attracted to the Sherpa jacket as I ride a lot of classics and wanted something that looked old-school but offered 21st century protection. It gives the impression it is an ordinary 12oz denim jacket, but with its Sherpa fleece non-removable lining it is toasty warm and can be worn on all but the hottest of days. Because of its flexible build and design, it's a great riding jacket and is non-restrictive.

It fits really well and the jacket has strong, metal YKK zips. Once zipped up, it can be opened both top and bottom. Cuffs have both zips and adjustable poppers with two settings on the poppers to tighten or loosen the cuff to help the fit between glove and cuff. The fleece collar can be worn either up or down. When worn up, there is a button-down strap which can secure the collar in position with double buttons should you need to stop the wind from whistling down your neck.

There are more than enough pockets for stashing odds and sods. Two zip-up ones either side are useful for keeping your hands warm when you are not riding the bike (obvs!) and two outer chest pockets come complete with flaps and poppers. There are also two zip-up inner pockets for wallets and phone.

This jacket is lined with a Pekev fabric using aramids and ethylene to produce the yarn, woven to make one of the highest abrasion resistant rated materials on the market. Tucked away inside the jacket are five pockets that hide a set of shoulder armour, elbow armour and a back protector. The shoulders and elbows have D30 IP Ghost CE Level 1 protection which is thin and flexible.

The Sherpa may be a bit more expensive than some of its rivals, but when you pick it up, its weight alone lets you know that a lot has gone into this jacket, making it feel reassuringly safe.

Comfortable and warm, this jacket may look casual and cool on a bike, but it has all the protection on offer from an ordinary motorcycle jacket, but check the weather forecast if you are going on a long ride as you might need to pack a waterproof layer to throw on over the top.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.saltflatsclothing.co.uk



'Ideal for off-road beginners'



Tested by Saffron Wilson for 24 months / 415 miles

These being my first set of off-road boots, it took a while until I was comfortable with the sensation of having my ankle locked in place. But once trouser cuffs and socks were sorted, I could spend six hours in the boots without even thinking about them. The system accommodates a range of calf sizes to keep you comfortable, but off the bike they are clunky to walk in.

Two years down the line, the Velcro fastening is still tough, and the waterproof

SinAqua Pro membrane works well. The only issue I had with them was with the two clasps which can be a little difficult and don't all seem to line up without fiddling. But all of RST's boots are CE approved and this pair is built with a polycarbonate anti-twist shank, reinforced toe box, as well as shin armour, heel cockpit and TPU ankle protection. I had a couple of low-speed off-road crashes while wearing them and they remained secure and protective. The boots barely have an battle scars, and thankfully neither do I.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.rst-moto.com



'That's mint mate!' Yes, it is...

Oxford Mint 5-litre bike wash £19.99

'Mint-fresh miracles'



Tested by Richard Newland for six months

I ride all year in all weathers, so I get through A LOT of bike cleaner. One-litre bottles are a mere aperitif to my consumption, and with bike cleaners being pricy, it's great that this Mint wash is available in a 5L size at sub £20. That's about £1.35 per wash in winter and £1 per wash in summer. After a quick jet wash of major filth and gritty cling-ons, simply give the bike a uniform mist of Mint wash, leave for a couple of minutes, then agitate with a brush, and rinse... I've noted zero filmy deposits, residues or negative reactions to any surface/finishes – just a superbly clean motorcycle emerging from the minty freshness. Superb.

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

