



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

FOUR MONTHS

Clarke CML3 Motorcycle Lift £478.80

'This has been a genuine revelation'

Tested by Richard Newland for four months

While I've only had this bench for four months, I've previously used the same model in another workshop over a period of years – and for the first rung on the table-lift ladder, it's a great piece of kit. If I were a garage technician, I'd want something with a wider platform, air assistance and of a more high-end professional quality – but as a tinkerer who services all his own bikes and always has one project on the go, it's spot-on.

It's completely stable, durable, and well put together. The tie-down hooks are invaluable for extra stabilising security, the front wheel chock works well enough (although its action is a little clunky) and the removeable panel

to allow you to easily drop a rear wheel out is useful, too. It's wide enough to accommodate big bikes and paddock stands, although my ABBA stand is a little too wide (I use spacers to seat it above the table lip). The hydraulic lifting action is effortless using the large removeable foot plate and it lowers progressively and smoothly (there's a two-height safety locking bar, too). A revelatory workshop addition. **Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★** www.machinemart.co.uk

PROS & CONS

- +** Seriously transforms workshop jobs
- Takes up floor space but you can leave a bike on it



Chocks and loops make sure your bike is fully secure



Daytona Travel Star GTX Pro £479.99

'Good enough for coppers...'

Tested by Jordan Gibbons for three years, over 15,000 miles

If you recognise these boots immediately, it's because they're the ones that police motorcyclists wear. Chosen for their comfort and waterproofing, but mostly for their protection as the Travel Star GTXs were CE rated long before it was mandatory. After three years and well over 15,000 miles in a pair, I can see why they are so popular. They're comfortable, warm and totally waterproof. Despite zero care or attention from me they've show no sign of leaking, cracking or otherwise failing. Even the zip is as smooth as day one. My only gripe is that I wish the sole was a little more grippy in the wet but it's a minor thing. Sure they're expensive but I have no reason to think they won't go for another 15,000+ miles. **Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★** www.bikerheadz.co.uk

15K MILES

Milwaukee M18 work lamp £109.99

Tested by Bruce Dunn for six months
This is not your usual basic LED workshop light, but a quality high-end product. It has two powerful magnets that can mount it to a metal surface, as well as an integrated clamp that will hold it at any angle. The light is mounted to a hinge that allows it to be rotated and tilted. The 1500 lumens flood your workspace with a rich spread of light, and will do this for 20 hours. The 18-volt battery is the same as is used in the rest of Milwaukee's M18 range of tools, which is handy. The construction is very robust and sturdy, waterproof and dustproof. It's that good, it's unlikely I'll ever need to buy another light again. It does it all. **Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★** www.sgsengineering.com



What else would you wear on a retro or classic?



2500 MILES

Bell Moto 3 £249.99

'I fell in love with it back in 1983'

Tested by Simon Relph for three years, 2500 miles

I bought the original back in 1983 and still have it today, even though the lining has begun to disintegrate, I just can't bear to get rid of it. The modern-day Bell Moto 3 is almost an exact replica, with the exception of the long peak which is now opaque black, as opposed to the original which was a black tint allowing you to see through it. A comfortable, no-thrills helmet with a double D-ring chinstrap, it has a good-size aperture for pretty much any make of goggles. The eight vents in the chin piece give plenty of ventilation and the fine mesh stops any foreign bodies. The liner is soft and comfortable, but the best bit is that it's removable and washable – perfect when you have been sweating your cobs off riding off-road all day. A thing of beauty. **Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★** www.bellhelmets.co.uk

PROS & CONS

- +** Faithful replica but with modern day updates
- There's very little not to like about this cool lid



TWO MONTHS

Macna trs £134.99 / jkt £169.99 / socks £109.99

'Totally worth the faff'

Tested by Ben Clarke for two months, 200 miles

This heated kit from Macna takes a bit of time to set up and get working but, once you have, you'll be so glad you bothered. The wiring is all designed so that you plug the different garments into each other and then either to the bike's electrical supply or battery power. You then control the four temperature levels and switch them on or off through an app (you can do this with the physical

controls, too). The app also allows you to check the battery levels and set timers. Because you have to add each item to the Bluetooth in turn, it's a bit of a faff to set up but once it's done it's very easy to use. The kit itself is very warm and comfortable under your normal clobber. I rode happily through close to freezing temperatures for several hours in summer kit with this underneath, so it definitely works. **Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★** www.macna.com/en



Oxford Oximiser 900 £49.99

'A must in lockdown'

Tested by Gareth Evans for three lockdowns

Lockdowns mean battery chargers have become a must-have accessory. The Oximiser 900 is specifically for bike-sized batteries, but the best thing is its simplicity. It's very user-friendly, with a choice of crocodile clips or O-rings, plus a wall bracket to keep it positioned off the floor. It's a plug-and-play affair, with a six-stage automated system to keep the battery cells safe and sound, and a bright blue LED screen showing charge status and other parameters, for additional peace of mind. You can use it with gel, MF or lead-acid batteries, and it'll charge with 900mA of power from voltages as low as 4.1. Build quality feels a bit cheap, but it works well. **Value ★★★★★ Quality ★★★★★** www.oxfordproducts.com

SIX MONTHS

MCN 5000 R5K READERS' TOP FIVE LEATHERS

1



Arrm Moto Harada S £389.99

I've used it for commuting and weekend riding in all weathers. Perforation on the front is noticeable in summer. They could add a back protector as standard though. Owen Gunter, Lincoln

2



Ixon Vortex 2 one piece £699.99

My go-to suit for sporty riding or a trackday, but I also use it for touring because it's just so comfortable. Graham Bell, Essex

3



Rukka Coriace-R two piece £1150 (jacket), £989.99 (trousers)

It's waterproof, comfortable and I am able to pair it with my Ixon airbag too. Peter O'Connell, Cornwall

4



RST Race Dept V4.1 Airbag one piece £999.99

Quite an aggressive cut and it's good that the airbag can be used three times before going back. Luke Burnett, Lincoln

5



Dainese Avro D1 two piece £719.99

I've had this suit for about seven years, done 90,000 miles and had two small spills and it's still looking good. Peter Hamidzadeh, Bromley

REVIEW YOUR KIT IN MCN

Got a product you want to shout about? Let us know via the #ride5000miles Facebook group