

TRIED & TESTED

MCN STAFF RATE THEIR RIDING KIT

RATINGS POOR ★ AVERAGE ★★ GOOD ★★★
VERY GOOD ★★★★ EXCEPTIONAL ★★★★★

1750
MILES

The higher CE rating and all for under £70

LS2 Swift gloves £69.99

Tested by Martin Fitz-Gibbons for two months, 1750 miles



Upstart Chinese helmet firm LS2 have expanded into other kit, and these Swift gloves are immediately impressive.

Construction is a mix of cow and goat leather, reinforced with plastic knuckle armour and Superfabric at the scaphoid and base of the thumb. There's a silicone panel on the palm for grip, external stitching along the fingers for comfort, plus bridged third-and-fourth fingers which take a bit of getting used to. Swift call these their 'Racing' gloves, but there are practical features including touchscreen-friendly index fingertips and a visorwipe on the left thumb.

But the most remarkable feature of these gloves is hidden away, barely mentioned by LS2. The '2' on the CE safety rating label means these are one of the very few sets of gloves to pass higher safety standards. In lab testing they've proven to withstand greater tearing forces, have superior seam strength, better abrasion resistance and more protective knuckle armour. And all for less than £70. Comfort and fit are excellent, too.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.ls2helmets.com

Visor wipe sits on the left thumb



MachineArt ADVance Guards £189

Tested by Richard Newland for two months, 1100 miles



The original Africa Twin handguards are pretty flimsy, but these ADVance Guards are serious – with a few tricks, too.

The heavy-duty aluminium main guard bolts to the handlebar and bar end (the AT's bolt to plastic brackets on the lever post and the bar end) and feels potently protective. Added to that are two plastic elements. One is a clip-out central insert, the other is an adjustable aerofoil. With the aerofoil in its 'up' position you get a huge frontal area for air deflection, in the 'down' position it's like a normal handguard. Remove it and the insert, and you're left with a breezy cage for cool hands yet rock-solid protection. The only downside is they weigh in at 910g more than the standard guards.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.nippynormans.com



1100
MILES

Alpinestars Tech 7 Enduro £349.99

Tested by Jordan Gibbons for 12 months, 4000 miles



This is the Enduro model, so it has a treaded sole, which is much better if you have to get off the bike while off-road.

The sole is replaceable too, although they have to be sent away. As protection goes the Tech 7s are impressive, with a hinged ankle, stiff sole and shin protection. I've crashed in these on enduro bikes and adventure bikes, with not even a twinge. I've also worn them for 10 hours at a time while on the GS Trophy without discomfort. They're slimmer than older models too, giving you decent feel of the controls. The only let down is that they suck up water like a sponge. However, there is a new version available now with a Drystar lining, which could be the answer.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.alpinestars.com



4000
MILES