



Klim Dakar Gloves £40

'They've stopped me from melting'

Tested by Simon Relp for 1500 miles



When I am riding a bike off-road on a warm day, I have a tendency to melt, especially in the recent heatwave! These gloves are just the job, thanks to the back of the hand being made from a breathable stretch material which allows air to flow, giving the gloves a cool feel.

A honeycomb pattern of thermoplastic rubber offers knuckle and finger protection. The palms and fingertips are made from a synthetic suede-like material which offers great feel for the bike's controls and also protection. In the palm and on the two middle fingers, silicon patches are printed on for additional grip.

They're a simple looking, very comfortable, flexible glove with a lot of thought gone into it.

Quality ★★★★★
Value ★★★★★
www.klim.com

1500 MILES

PROS & CONS

- + Cool and comfortable yet offering good protection
- Shame they are too cold for winter riding

Good protection and even better airflow for hot rides



1000 MILES

Oxford T8 Tail Bag £49.99

'A 100% waterproof option'

Tested by Ben Clarke for two months/1000 miles



I got this tailpack to fulfil a very specific duty – riding my ZX-10R long-term test bike to a trackday wearing my one-piece leathers, which have no proper pockets. I didn't want to use a tankbag as the riding position on the Kawasaki is so extreme I thought it would get in the way. This little tailpack from Oxford is the ideal solution with enough room (eight litres) to store a hoodie and a

pair of shoes or a security chain, and an external pocket to stash your phone and wallet for easy access. It straps onto the pillion seat with Velcro loops and then there are double D-ring fasteners to keep everything secure. It's completely unobtrusive on the bike, plus it's 100% waterproof. The only thing that could improve it would be if the bag could clip off and on the straps without having to undo it all.

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



Alpinestars Crazy Eight leather jacket £299.99

'Impressively versatile'

Tested by Phil West for 14 months / 1200 miles



This retro-style jacket is impressively versatile. The design is classy, in either trendy brown or black with padded shoulders and elbows. The outer is in soft full-grain leather with chunky but smooth-operating zips. The fit is neither too snug nor loose with waistband popper adjusters. There's a zip-out tartan thermal liner, two large, zippered outer pockets and a waterproof inner for your wallet, plus removable Level 1 CE shoulder/elbow protectors and a sleeve for a back protector. It's comfy, fits well, oozes quality, the lining is great: my go-to jacket.

1200 MILES

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

MCN 5000 R5K READERS'

TOP FIVE CHAIN LUBES

1



S100 White Chain Spray, £14.99 (400ml)

I did a five-day, 1400-mile tour of Scotland with just three applications! Definitely one of the best. Jon Ashley, Manchester

2

Tru-Tension BananaSlip, £10 (500ml)

A dry, banana-scented lube with minimal fling. I'm lubing the chain every 300 to 500 miles. Ashley Marshall, Scarborough



3

Comma EP90 gear oil, £9.99 (one litre)

Very good lubrication and anti-corrosion properties, but it can be messy and does fling. Bottles last for ages, though. Andy Gower, Harrogate



4

Muc-Off All Weather Chain Lube, £10.99 (400ml)

This keeps the chain lubricated, even in torrential downpours. But it flings all over the place. Peter Horvath, South London



5

Motul Chain Paste, £9.49 (150ml)

It has a brush on the end, for applying to the chain. The paste is white, so you know where you've been. No fling, or mess. Tomasz Kolodziej, London



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