



Heat for your whole hand

Easy-to-control heat settings

SIX weeks ON TEST

Macna Progress 2.0 heated gloves £229.98

‘Warm right down to your fingertips’



Tested by Michael Guy for six weeks

I have to admit I've been largely underwhelmed by all the heated gloves I've used in the past...

until now. While other offerings seem to warm the back of your hand at the expense of any heat going to your fingers, which is the important bit, these Macna Progress 2.0 items are definitely up to the job.

They provide a real spread of impressive heat to your hand, fingers and cuff and proved a lifesaver for me on a 600-mile return trip to the Lake District in temperatures below five degrees. You can control the four heat levels using a button on the back of the glove or through a simple Macna app on your phone where you can also see the battery level. So far I've only used them on the self contained batteries rather than plugging into the bike. On full power and depending on the temperature I've had a single charge last over two hours with a charging time from empty to full taking approximately four hours.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.macna.com



Retro style but it passes 22.06

HJC V10 £299.99

‘Cool looks for a sensible price’



Tested by Ben Clarke for six months

The HJC V10 joined the firm's range in 2023 as a retro-infused street helmet that would look at home on a naked muscle bike or a retro scrambler. It's lightweight (1422g on my scales in Large with the Pinlock fitted) and has a low profile, but still meets the latest ECE 22.06 safety testing regulations.

I've been wearing the V10 through winter/early spring so I've had the chin curtain fitted for warmth, but it does make putting the helmet on and taking it off a bit of a squeeze. Once you've got it on, the helmet is very comfortable (on my head at least) and feels very lightweight and easy to wear for long journeys.

I'm impressed by how quiet the V10 is, even riding a naked bike at motorway speed, the wind noise is minimal and I was expecting more due to the constantly open outer chin vent ports. I rode with the chin vents closed for a short trip in very cold conditions and the visor steamed up within five minutes – even with the Pinlock fitted – so I wouldn't reach for it if the temperature is low enough to warrant closed vents. Even with all the vents open on warmer days, the airflow through the helmet isn't all that impressive.

The visor catch is easy to operate in thick gloves as is the chin vent slide (which is located on the inside of the chin bar). The brow vents are slightly trickier to open and close on the move, but still possible.

The paint finish is excellent – there's a rich, deep, metallic sheen on the paintjob in this Grape MC21 version – and all the fasteners and vent switches feel substantial and sturdy while wind noise is much less intrusive than I expected for the helmet style.

The visor is changed using old-fashioned-looking screws but they have a captive handle that flips out so you don't have to reach for a screwdriver or 2p piece. The quality isn't quite as good as the Shoei Ex-Zero I used previously, but the Shoei is an ECE 22.05 model and cost £100 more so I think the HJC are bang on the money here... quite literally!

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
hjchelmets.eu



4936 miles ON TEST

Two years later and it's all good

Outlast keeps you warm and yet cool

Rukka Outlast Ladies shirt £70

‘It's an all-weather essential’



Tested by Saffron Wilson for two years

If you're looking for an all-round base layer that is suitable for pretty much any weather, then the Outlast Ladies shirt ticks all the boxes.

The thin Outlast fabric which is 66% polyester, 29% viscose and 5% elastane was very comfortable and as it is made for women, the fit is good. The only issue I had was when wiggling around to keep comfortable in the saddle and if I had forgotten to tuck the shirt in properly it did ride up on occasion, but for the

most part with thoughtful prep this wasn't a problem. In fact, I sometimes forgot that I'd even put on a base layer.

It's made from a fabric that keeps you cool in warm weather and warm in cool weather, meaning you get more than your regular base layer, and even after two years of use, it still has all of its elasticity and only a few bobbles. It's competitively priced and comes with a year's warranty for peace of mind, Rukka have put their money where their mouth is.

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



Magic cleaning on the go...

Vulcanet cleaning wipes £36.99

‘Coming clean on costly wipes’



Tested by Michael Neeves for six months

I've been using these to clean test bikes during photoshoots and remove light dirt and bug splats between washes. Vulcanet say two or three wipes will do a bike, which is about right. Just wipe the desired area and buff off with the supplied microfibre cloth. It works brilliantly and brings paintwork up to a smooth and polished finish, doesn't scratch and is useful on everything from exhausts to plastics, mirrors, TFT dashes and everything in between. That said, the solution leaves a sticky residue on your hands and you still can't beat a sponge and water for getting deep into nooks and crannies. It isn't cheap, but you get 80 wipes in a tub.

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

2000 miles ON TEST