



CONTROLS
Among the easiest to use here; a positive switch and three bright LEDs indicating selected power as well as battery status.



BENCH TEST

- Battery life 3 hrs 43 mins
- Freezer test internal temps (measured every 15 mins) -11.3°C/-10.5°C/-8°C/5.5°C
- Time to water ingress N/A
- Volume of water retained 276ml

THE SCORES

- Fit** [10 green squares, 1 red square]
- Comfort** [10 green squares, 2 red squares]
- Feel** [10 green squares, 2 red squares]
- Confidence** [10 green squares, 2 red squares]
- Warmth** [10 green squares, 4 red squares]
- Waterproofing** [10 green squares]

Total 48/60

THE FACTS

- Material** Nylon/faux leather/leather
- Membrane** Hipora
- Weight (inc batteries, dry)** 483g
- CE rating** 1KP
- Battery location** External, inside wrist
- Battery voltage** 7.4V
- Battery capacity (ea)** 2200mAh
- Charger** USB-A
- Bike harness included?** ✘
- Heat control** Push button
- Sizes available** S-4XL
- Size tested** M



RECOMMENDED

2 Merlin Curborough £229.99
'Need to be hotter but totally waterproof'

www.merlinbikegear.shop

The Merlin Curboroughs are battery-powered only - no hard-wiring kit is available - and while fairly long, they have a touch of sportiness to them.

The outer is predominantly nylon and leather, with some spandex for flexibility. They feature hard armour over the knuckles with D30 sections on the scaphoid, plus a wrist strap and a storm seal with elasticated drawstrings at the cuff. Leather palm and Nappa grip panel, with textile on the side of the thumb and forefinger in the absence of a visor wipe.

The fit is excellent for me; probably the best here. The width is perfect, the fingers and thumbs all the correct length with no excess material at any ends. The microfleece lining is plush against the skin and feel for the bike is excellent, suggesting relatively thin insulation.

In use, the insulation is reasonable - it's Thinsulate, after all - but eventually the fingers begin to feel chilly with no heating activated. Activating heat is simple: a positive push button activates the gloves and

three bright LEDs indicate the power level with four, smaller LEDs highlighting the battery level - a nice touch.

On low power, it initially staves off the chill but fingers soon get cold again. Even by the time the highest setting has been activated, the fingers are still becoming chilly after sustained high-speed riding, suggesting these may be better for an urban environment, at lower speeds or on bikes with some wind protection to the hands.

The Curboroughs aced the dunk test - no water got in.

VERDICT
Well-fitting and comfy, but heating needs to be stronger - as shown by battery life and freezer test results.

'These may be better for an urban environment'