



**RST Pro Series Paragon 6 CE Leather Gloves**  
**£79.99**

**Couldn't stuff the cuff...**



**Tested by Emma Franklin for 9000 miles**

These are an attractive proposition for winter riders – and after more than 9000 miles, they've served me well... until now.

After two years in all conditions, wearing them recently with a narrow-sleeved textile jacket forced me to leave the cuffs outside the sleeves, which led to them becoming saturated in a particularly heavy rain storm. The drawstring cuff (which, admittedly, first attracted me to the Paragon 6s in the first place, due to my lazy nature and disliking the faff involved with squeezing gloves under cuffs) allowed water to creep in and saturated both gloves in less than an hour. While the gloves are otherwise well finished, with practical extras like visor wipes and a secure wrist strap, this incident has now rattled my faith in their abilities.

At £79.99 RRP (or less online), they're competitively priced, and if rain resistance is a priority, you absolutely need to be wearing your jacket sleeves over the glove.

**MCN rating ★★★★★**  
[www.rst-moto.com](http://www.rst-moto.com)



Great, until water got in down the cuff

**Two years ON TEST**

**Alpinestars GP Pro R4 gloves**  
**£249.99**

**Cool and comfortable**



**Tested by Carl Stevens for 2000 miles**

The GP Pro R4 gloves from Alpinestars may be on the pricier side of the spectrum for a set of trackday gloves, but they've been impressive in terms of fit and feel from the outset, and across a year of abuse both on road and track.

Firstly, the fit and the cut is exceptional, from the off. Unlike older generations of racing gloves from Alpinestars which took quite a substantial breaking in period (especially around the fingers and knuckle), the leather accordion panelling and the mixture of bovine, goat and kangaroo leather make the fitment not only true to size and cosy, but also flexible and soft on the inside.

The internal seams are all hidden nicely and due to the way the panels are placed on the glove from the knuckle section back to the wrist, there's a great range of movement available – which is vital for moving around the bike on track, and stretching into a comfortable position mid-corner. The closure system on the cuff is also strong, and easy to secure.



Top rankings for comfort and feel

Although they feel very protective with an additional layer of impact absorbing material, the dual-density DFS knuckle protection, aramid fibre lining and the TPU inserts in the fingers, where the GP Pro R4 leather gloves do lose a mark is due to the fact that they're only certified to

**12 months ON TEST**

CE Level 1, rather than the higher CE Level 2 that would be expected for a high-performance glove that is built for the track. Also, as you might imagine for a summer-style glove, there is an impressive amount of ventilation for those warmer days and sweatier rides, but you'll get very little protection from the elements should the heavens decide to open. But then again, that is a general trait of sportier offerings.

As far as quality goes, the GP Pro R4 gloves have held up impressively well in terms of their appearance with no quality issues to report – even when they've been thrown around on road tests and in pit garages. Plus, with options in white, red or black, they look the part as well.

**MCN rating ★★★★★**  
[www.alpinestars.com](http://www.alpinestars.com)

**HipLok DX1000**  
**£299.99**

**Good-Lok cutting this**



**Tested by Tom Willard for one month**

For years I've been carefully threading a chain through the wheels on my bikes, with the typical metallic clatter during unsociable hours and with road grime inevitably finding its way onto my hands – imperfections of the process that I'd just accepted.

There's a different way with the DX1000 from HipLok, which is a large D-lock that can fit straight onto the wheel of your bike. I can get it on in seconds, it's rubberised to avoid scratching anything and negated the need for putting my hands between spokes and getting mucky. There's only a muted thunk when putting the two pieces together, so it's quieter than a chain too.



**One month ON TEST**

Quiet, hassle-free security

Whilst it's not as packable as a disc lock, I found it an easy fit in my rucksack for trips out and at 2.75kg it's not too hefty. At £299.99 it ain't cheap but it strikes immediately as a quality product from the first touch

and has a stellar reputation for resilience with a Sold Secure Diamond grading – it's a top pick for bike security.

**MCN rating ★★★★★**  
[www.hiplok.com](http://www.hiplok.com)



Drop-down visor and vents that really work

**Shoei GT-Air 3 £649.99**

**6000 miles ON TEST**

**Be a happy GT Air-head**



**Tested by Richard Newland for two years**

The GT-Air 3 boasts a slick drop-down sun visor, aerodynamic design, and efficient vents – all bundled up in a helmet that feels well-sorted. Superbly comfortable and cosseting from the first wear, it has lost none of its comfort or fit over the last 6000 miles. On the road, wind noise is

minimal and turbulence is basically non-existent. Stability is top-notch, even at motorway speeds or when doing life-savers and the included chin curtain and nose guard keep chilly air at bay. At a measured 1802g (without comms) it's not featherweight, but you don't notice the mass when riding. It's not a cheap helmet, but worth every penny.

**MCN rating ★★★★★**  
[www.shoeiassured.co.uk](http://www.shoeiassured.co.uk)