

TRIED & TESTED
 MCN STAFF RATE THEIR RIDING KIT
 ★★★★★

The leather and textile construction keeps the gloves soft and pliable



Twin visor wipers keep your vision clear

3100 miles ON TEST

'I used them on a 500-mile jaunt to the Dragon'

Macna Rafino RTX Heated Gloves £219.99

'Real cold comforters'



Tested by Justin Hayzelden for four months

Back in February I completed a 500-mile, 18-hour weekend jaunt to the Conwy Motorcycle Club's notorious Dragon Rally on a Honda Dax 125. I was expecting it to be cold and miserable, but instead I felt snug as a bug all the way thanks to these Macna Rafino heated gloves.

Although rechargeable battery packs are available (£119.99), I opted for the wire-to-bike system because I like the fail-safe backstop of not having to rely on battery life, plus you get a more effective 12V supply to fire up the heating elements, rather than the 7.4V provided by the batteries.

Warm up is very quick, and you can feel the toastiness within seconds. There's a distinct step between each

of the four settings, with the highest only really being necessary for short bursts when the wind chill sends temperatures tumbling. Coverage is as comprehensive as it needs to be, right down to the ends of my fingers and along the outside edges, where your hands are particularly vulnerable to the cold.

Control via the manual button is easy enough, however the Rafino also has Bluetooth built in for syncing via the Macna app. Multiple items can be connected and controlled, either individually or in groups, and there's also a timer function for limiting duration. And before you ask, the index fingertips are touchscreen friendly, so you don't have to take your gloves off to change the settings.

Winter gloves, even heated ones, can often be too chunky, but that's not the case here, as the Rafino maintain

enough dexterity and sensitivity for a confident squeeze on the levers and tangible feedback from buttons.

I have been caught in torrential rain on numerous occasions and they have yet to suffer from any leaks. A 'water exhaust' under the wrist allows any moisture trapped between the outer layer and membrane to escape, effectively preventing the breathable element from getting overwhelmed when the outer eventually wets through. The twin visor wipers, one on each index finger are invaluable.

If you ride all year round, you'll know that it's impossible to put a price on keeping your hands warm, dry and protected, which is why I think the Rafino are excellent value, even at full RRP. For that run to the Dragon alone they've been worth the money, but add to that the fact that I've used them day in, day out over the past four

months on my 100-mile round trip commute to the office, through thunderous rainstorms, blustery gales and freezing fog, and you'll start to get the picture. They've been relentlessly splashed with salty road grime and still come up looking like new, staying soft, flexible and comfortable come what may.

Summer may well be on the horizon, but in a weird way I'm already looking forward to next winter.

MCN rating ★★★★★
macna.com

PROS & CONS

- +** Light and flexible, four distinct heat setting
- After 3100 miles, I honestly cannot fault them



Clever design stops moisture build up



Heat can be adjusted via Bluetooth