



1000
miles
ON TEST

LS2 Snow Gloves £69.99

'Too cold for snow'



**Tested by Emma Franklin
for three months**

With a name like 'Snow', I was expecting a bit more bulk from these textile LS2 gloves as they are fairly thin for winter wear. The super-soft brushed polyester lining (which feels almost like fleece next to your skin) retains enough heat for milder British winter temperatures (5-10°C), but isn't really warm enough for long rides at lower temps. That said, the Snow offer excellent feel for the controls via the mock-suede palm. The outer material is water repellent, meaning that the backs of the hands and fingers can take a proper dousing before rain saturates through to the Hipora waterproof membrane beneath.

Rated to EN13594 1KP, they meet the lower (but most common) protection standard for motorcycle gloves with knuckle armour. There's extra padding on the heel of the hand as well as a plastic palm slider/scaphoid protector to help prevent injury to the wrist. Other features include a visor wipe and touchscreen-sensitive fingers.

Although they're really nicely made, I can't help but feel £69.99 is a little steep.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.ls2helmets.com

Nicely made but
more autumn
than winter



Rugged and you
can lean on it too

Oxford M15R Tank Bag £129.99

'Both robust and extremely useful'



**Tested by Michael Neeves
for one year**

Oxford tank bags have almost iconic status in modern biking and it's easy to see why. They're robust, extremely useful and come with a lifetime guarantee against faulty materials or manufacture. I've had many over the years and used them for thousands of road test and touring miles. They never wear out, but in the interest of seeing how Oxford's tank bags have evolved, I put a new one to the test last year when I needed one for my long-term Kawasaki H2 SX SE. I wanted something big enough to hold a decent stash and to lean up against to take the weight off my wrists. Oxford's mid-size, expandable, M15R magnetic tank bag fitted the bill perfectly.

It takes a second to fit and once on it's secure, even at high speed. Threading and fastening the security strap underneath the headstock takes a few extra seconds, but is never a drama. Once on it's easy to use thanks to strong, easy-to-use zips and its 15-litre capacity is more than enough for what I need. On big trips I generally keep a pair of trainers in the main compartment, stuffed and surrounded with odds and ends. I can fit wash bag and clothes over the top and keys, wallet, change, toll tickets, phone and knick-knacks in the side pockets. I use a rucksack or panniers for everything else.

It comes with an internal waterproof liner that works perfectly in heavy rain, but even without it, the bag can withstand a light shower. The 420D Ripstop Nylon shell and zips are robust and after just 3000 miles it still looks like new. It's at the pricier end of the market, but you get what you pay for in terms of quality and usefulness. That said, you can find huge bargains online if you click around.

Just like the Oxford tank bags I've used before, the M15R magnetic tank bag doesn't disappoint. It's strong, hard-wearing, easy to wipe down, simple to use and dependable. It also makes a bike with sporty bars much more comfortable on big trips, too. It's pricey, but sensibly designed and it should last you a biking lifetime. Highly recommended.

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



Protect
your joints
from injury

3800
miles
ON TEST

Alpinestars SX1 V1 knee protection £99.99

'Protection where you need it'



**Tested by Michael Guy
for nearly six years**

I've always made a point of protecting my knees when off-road and adventure riding because they are vulnerable in a crash and can take a long time to heal. I moved away from the armour that comes fitted in most adventure-style trousers, mainly because in reality it's unlikely to offer any level of serious protection since it can shift and not be in the right place to protect you on impact.

The SX1 knee protection is a standalone item that is actually attached to your leg by

way of strong Velcro straps. This means they fit well and are always where you need them to be should you have an incident. With strapping on your calf and thigh and a hinged bracket on your knee joint, they will stop knee hyper extension as well as giving a decent level of lateral support. Being made from semi-rigid polymer with ventilated padding, they provide excellent protection from impacts with the ground or from flying rocks.

A slightly updated SX-1 V2 version is now available with an RRP of £109.99.

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



Cool looks
plus real
protection

Furygan Ladies Angie Boots D30 £139.99

'Comfy as can be'



**Tested by Saffron Wilson
for 10 months**

After 6000 miles, these became my go-to and are comfortable both on and off the bike. I'm impressed with their waterproofing, as they survived downpours easily, and aside from some wear on the sole and the sticker peeling off, they have proved extremely durable.

With CE Level 1 protection, including impact protection at the ankles and reinforced heels and toes with D30 protectors, they feel like a pair of trainers with the added peace of mind of being motorcycle kit. But even though the Furygans are equipped for use both on off the bike, with grippy soles, Airmesh material and removable insole, they haven't compromised on style.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.furygan.com

6639
miles
ON TEST