



Rukka R-Star Gore-Tex Gloves £274.99

'My go-to winter gloves'



Tested by Simon Relph for six years / 7000 miles

I have had these Rukka R-Star gloves now for six years and they have hardly aged in that time. The moment cold weather arrives, these are my go-to winter gloves as they are just so warm and comfortable. They are also very nicely made with a supple full leather exterior, a breathable Gore-Tex membrane that keeps the wet out, and a soft warm fleece interior to retain warmth. There are even two ways to put them on. One method allows your hand to be nearer to the palm with more of the insulation on the back of the hand, perfect for winter riding on bikes with heated grips, as the heat can permeate through the glove much more easily, while the back of the hand is more insulated from the cold. The second option offers more insulation to the palm; personally I am not as keen on this because of the way it reduces the amount of feel I get at my point of contact with the bike's controls.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.tranam.co.uk

It's pricey but well-made gear



Shark Spartan RS £299.99

'Sporty lid's up for touring'



Tested by Steve Herbert-Mattick for one year / 3000 miles

The Spartan RS is the first Shark helmet made to the new ECE22.06 safety standard. It's a high-quality sports-touring helmet that's well-made and comfortable enough for full-day rides. The variable-thickness, Optical class 1 visor gives a great view ahead and works best on sporty bikes that have you canted slightly forwards. On adventure bikes I find I'm tipping my chin down slightly to see the clocks and not the breath guard. The pinlock is perfectly mist-free, and the drop-down visor is exactly what you want; easy to operate with gloves on using the top-mounted switch, gives full coverage and the neutral tint works very well. You'll need the vents open to avoid steaming up the drop-down visor, though.

My 56.5cm head is smack between the small (55-56cm) and medium (57-58cm) shell sizes. While the fit of the small is tight, there are no pressure points anywhere, just an overall snugness that's never uncomfortable. Over time, it's only got better, too. Weight is a fairly standard 1460g. The lining is plush and not too sweaty even in high-summer (and yes, I used it throughout 2022's heatwave). The smooth, fuss-free shell shape is aerodynamically stable and there's a generous chin curtain which helps reduce noise on the road.

Venting is a mixed bag. The top vent is very effective and lets in a ferocious gush of air that actually makes it unexpectedly noisy, even with earplugs. The chin vent, however, is so ineffective I'm never quite sure which is the open position. Thankfully the visor's notched opening mechanism means it's easy to get a faceful of fresh air but if I ride with the main visor up and the sun visor down, it emits an aggravating, high-pitched whistle.

As with other sporty Sharks, the collar sits high at the back, leaving your neck feeling exposed. It's good in a sportsbike crouch, giving room for your head, rucksack or aero hump but on anything vaguely upright, it's unsettling at first. In my experience it leaves my neck tube more vulnerable to soaking up rain than with other helmets, which in turn gets drawn down inside your jacket over time.

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

TESTED FOR 3000 miles



Clever design, great warmth

Keis V501RP Premium Heated vest £140

'This has been a game-changer'



Tested by Jim Moore for two months

British firm Keis have been in the heated clothing game for over 20 years, and it shows. The V501RP vest oozes quality from its construction and fit through to ease of use and design. And it's so lightweight that movement and comfort aren't compromised. The genius is that I can wear it on and off the bike. It can be run from a bike's 12v battery or via a separate 2600mAh pack (an additional £80). There are three heat settings, operated by

an easy-to-use controller that slips neatly into a jacket pocket. On high the battery lasts around three hours; on low Keis claim double that. The vest has its own inside pocket to accommodate the battery as well as outside pockets for storage. The only downside is the three-hour limit on high heat from the portable battery, but if you plug into your bike's battery that's not an issue. £140, plus £80 for the battery and charger, is a small price to pay for never getting cold again.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.keisapparel.com



Wiz knee sliders £30

'Fan of Pussy Cat Trolls...'



Tested by Dan Sutherland for one year

You can't beat a pair of Wiz knee sliders for adding some personalisation to your leathers. Every year I treat myself to a new design and 2022 was no exception, as I went for a set of these black and white 'Pussy Cat Troll' sliders (who doesn't love cats?) with glitter backing for added pizzazz.

Over the course of the year, I did multiple trackdays and endurance racing – covering around 1000 miles on circuits. Despite this, the striking sliders still have plenty of meat left on the bones, wearing evenly, and retaining that distinctive cat shape.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.wizkneesliders.com

TESTED FOR 1000 miles