



Great off road performance, surprisingly good on road, too

600 miles ON TEST

Dunlop D606 £230 pair

'Great dual sport performance'



Tested by Steve Herbert-Mattick for one year

Designed with a 10% road and 90% off-road bias, the D606s are essentially a street legal

enduro tyre with a deep, chunky block pattern and serious off-road capabilities. On the road, they're surprisingly quiet with little rolling noise and have easily enough grip and performance for me to ride my Honda CRF250L at proper road speeds.

Initially run at 20psi they felt hard and like riding over cobbles. Dropping the pressures to 16psi for the dirt improved comfort, feel and traction on the road too. On trails they're impressive in all conditions and most surfaces – only slightly struggling to hold a line in deep sand. They are hugely expensive compared to my previous fit Michelin Trackers (which are better in the dirt, worse on the road and wear faster) but if, like me, you need to ride on the road to get to the actual off-roading, the D606s are spot on.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.dunlop.eu



Don't like the logo? There are options

Bell Race Star DLX Flex £699.99

'Racer with a day job'



Tested by Ben Clarke for three months

The Bell Race Star Flex DLX is a carbon-fibre, sporty street helmet that sits at the upper

end of the market – and quite rightly so. This ECE22.06 version of the Race Star is a distant descendent of the 1967 Bell Star, the first full-face helmet on the market, which kicked head protection into a new gear.

I committed a cardinal sin when this helmet arrived as I took it from the DPD driver, stuck it on my head and immediately rode from Norfolk to Berlin (that's how I remember it happening anyway). This was a foolhardy decision, but one I completely got away with and therefore learned no lessons from. I usually sit somewhere between an L and an XL and opted for the smaller of the two after using Bell's sizing guide. The fit was just on the uncomfortable side of snug when I first put it by the time I pulled it on for day two of the ride from Hanover to Berlin the padding had compressed enough for a perfect fit.

The Bell Race Star comes with a ProTint reactions visor as standard. It is clear in low light conditions and then gets darker as more light hits it. This means you don't have to worry about carrying separate visors for different conditions.

Transition happens really quickly and I'm impressed with the system but it does have one shortcoming; it stays a little too dark in bright, rainy conditions. I found visibility poor in conditions where a thin layer of rain clouds are illuminated by the sun so the sky is bright white. It's a similar story in the fog too. It's not dangerously dark in these conditions but I'd rather it stayed clear.

Despite its light weight, you can feel the Bell's high quality from the moment you pick it up. The lining is plush and soft, all of the vent switches are robust and smooth and the visor closes with the same purposeful thud as a German car door.

All-in-all, the Bell Race Star DLX Flex is impressive. It's well-designed, lightweight, comfortable and looks fantastic.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
bellhelmets.co.uk

4000 miles ON TEST



Velcro up for a secure fit

1500 miles ON TEST

Oxford Calgary 2.0 gloves £59.99

There is leather in key areas

'Maximise warmth without bulk'



Tested by Emma Franklin for six months

These winter gloves have been designed to maximise warmth without bulk. With 60% leather construction, there's zoned use of wind-blocking soft shell down the sides of the fingers and back of hand, as well as leather across the knuckles and front of the fingers.

The result of this is that they're both comfortable and warm – without making your hands feel restricted. As there's leather across the palms too, they allow warmth from heated grips to penetrate as well as giving you that peace of mind that they'd protect in a spill. If you don't have heated grips, the fleecy thermal lining does a grand job on its own, and instantly feels welcoming.

I love the structured feel of these gloves too – they have retained their shape throughout the miles and haven't taken on that floppy 'gardening glove' look – and I find this characteristic very reassuring. There's also PU armour across the knuckles as well as Velcro wrist and cuff straps. A visor wipe completes the package.

The Dry2Dry membrane has so far worked faultlessly, and although the cuffs are only mid-length they are very easy to get under all of my jacket sleeves so rain hasn't managed to work its way in through the tops.

Rated at CE Level 1KP these are a decent pair of gloves for autumn and winter – and at a penny under £60 they're excellent value.

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



Make your bike 'like new' again

Ammo Aeroglide Ultra Polish £11.50

'Get more shine with less effort'



Tested by Michael Guy for two years

I'm not a fan of cleaning bikes so anything that makes the task easier is a big plus in my book.

What I find is that even after you've cleaned the bike, it never looks new, no matter how hard you try but the Aeroglide Ultra polish has been a revelation. Brakes aside, you can spray it on any surface, which saves time, and by polishing it off with a microfibre cloth you enjoy seriously impressive 'like new' results. Whether it's the screen, metal tank or plastic it brings them back to life with minimal effort. The polish also stays on, meaning you don't have to re-apply after every wash.

Even the bottle and spray pump are good – working consistently and ensuring you get every last bit of the product out of the bottle – unlike some aerosol cans.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.ammopro.co.uk

2 years ON TEST