

THE MCN SHOWCASE

**ARMOURED
 RIDING
 JEANS**

All-day comfy, cool looking and protective... but which are best for you?

- Fit and comfort levels rated
- Design, construction and CE scores rated
- Every pair worn for hundreds of real-world miles

20K+ miles ON TEST



As comfortable as regular jeans



Bull-it's riding jeans designed to resist abrasion and direct heat away from the rider's skin in a crash

Bull-it Mastiff Motorcycle Jeans £174.99

'Feeling Bull-it-proof'



Tested by Michael Neeves for 14 months

British motorcycle riding jeans maker Bull-it launched their mid-grey Mastiff line last year. Mine are straight fit, size 32 Long and I've been wearing them since March 2024. Their extensive range includes jeans in various styles, cuts and colours for men and women.

They're made from a lightweight denim designed to be resistant to abrasion and to keep heat away from the rider's skin in a crash. They come with a decent AA safety rating (the highest is AAA) and the breathable, rubbery-plastic hip and knee armour is rated to a basic Level 1. The knee armour pockets allow the pads to be placed in a high or low position to secure them in the

perfect place for comfort and protection. I haven't crash-tested them, fortunately, but the AA-rating plus my perception of how they'll fare and the way the armour fits so snugly, gives me confidence that I am safe when I'm riding.

Protection aside, there isn't a great deal of difference in the way these and a pair of casual everyday jeans feel, which makes them comfortable on and off the bike, with or without the armour fitted. I've worn them for many a 12-hour-plus day on press launches, MCN tests, riding holidays, in planes and general larking about on all types of bikes. They're one of my go-to pieces of regular riding kit.

The stretch denim is soft, snug, not too bulky, or hot in the summer and they keep out some of the cold and wind in the winter, too. I love the cut and as a lanky six-footer, it's hard

enough to get jeans to measure-up in all the right places at the best of times, but these fit perfectly. They're relatively slim and pull up nicely over my waist to keep out the draughts. I always wear them with a summer, or winter base layer and mainly over ankle-height riding boots, but they just about stretch over my bulky Alpinestars racing boots, too. The pockets are deep enough to prevent keys, phone and nick-nacks falling out when riding.

I got my first pair of Bull-its in 2020, wore them for tens of thousands of miles and have always marvelled at their durability, despite being no thicker than regular jeans. These are wearing just as well, despite similar hard use. The stitching, zip and button are still in A1 condition, the pockets haven't frayed, they've been out in all weathers, knelt on and washed a

gazillion times and still look like new, although being a light colour they show up the dirt easily.

They won't offer the last word in crash protection and there are far cheaper riding jeans out there, but for a pair of comfy, well-fitted riding jeans that will last you a very long time, I can't recommend them highly enough.

MCN rating ★★★★★
www.bull-it.com

PROS & CONS

- + Comfy, incredibly durable, adjustable knee armour
- Pricey and the don't come with the maximum AAA safety rating



Removable breathable hip and knee armour boosts the protection



Bull-it's Mastiff jeans are made from single-layer 'Covec Oneskin' denim