



Rev'lt Alpinus GTX £549.99

Top-drawer waterproofs



Tested by Ben Clarke for eight months / 1000 miles
Forming part of Rev'lt's Urban

Gore-Tex collection, these pants are designed to be worn over your normal trousers and whipped off at your destination, leaving you ready to work in seconds. I only wear them when it's raining so they've done approaching 1000 wet miles and have never let a single drop through. They're CE AA-certified so you could take a spill in them, too.

They're exceptionally well put together and have a robust quality that means you don't feel worried about yanking them over your jeans and boots – which you can do easily because of the long access zips.

The only downside when compared to wearing a normal set of waterproofs over riding jeans is that if the sun comes out during your working day, you still have to pull your Gore-Tex on to ride home but this is only really a bugbear in the warmer months.

The price is a bit of an elephant in the room, too, but if you were a year-round city commuter these pants would be perfect and doubtless last years and years with some proper care.

MCN rating ★★★★★
revitsport.com



Stealthy look for urban commuting

8 months ON TEST

Merlin ThermoVolt Heated Mid-Layer Jacket £229.99

Keeps you hot when it's not



Tested by Robin Kirkley for three months

This is my first experience with a heated mid-layer jacket, and I don't know why I've waited so long. I used to bulk up with thermals and warm jumpers, which made for a fairly rigid ride. But now I simply wear a base layer or a T-shirt under the ThermoVolt, which is much more pleasant. It's a thin, stretchy jacket, and quite light so it fits easily under my main jacket.

Well, except for the bulky rechargeable battery, that is. I have to remember to shift it around to my side so it doesn't press against my stomach. The battery lasts around four hours on the lowest heat setting, and it's all I've really needed up to now. When winter gets to its coldest I'm sure I'll be pumping up to the highest setting, which will apparently give me around two hours of battery life. That's pretty much in line with other heated jackets being tested by the MCN team. In order to conserve the battery on a long ride I've experimented with turning the



Toasty no matter the weather

heat off when I stop for a coffee, then leaving it off until I start feeling chilly again. I can usually ride for quite a while until I need to switch it back on since there's a thin reflective layer that keeps the heat in.

There are also practical touches like the high collar that covers a neck tube, and extended sleeves that fit snugly into winter gloves. If you plugged the jacket into the bike's 12V battery you wouldn't have any of these worries, but I've already got a CarPlay system wired in, which is why I use the jacket's rechargeable battery option. There is a matching mid-layer trouser that connects to the jacket, if you fancy being completely wired up.

MCN rating ★★★★★
www.merlinbikegear.com

3 months ON TEST

Alpinestars AMT-10 AIR HDRY gloves £194.99

My go-to for off-roading



Tested by Michael Guy for three years
I ride a lot of off-road and adventure bikes and these Alpinestars

AMT-10 gloves have been my go-to for more than three years now. They are lightweight enough to give great control and feel while being tough enough to protect your hands and withstand a fall. They're designed for everyday riding including hot humid conditions and wet weather, thanks to the separate laminate over-glove that packs away neatly and is easily put on when the rain comes.

Since getting these gloves I've used them on bike launches in Greece, Sardinia, South Africa and India as well as numerous days green



Well used and grubby

3 years ON TEST

laning and adventure riding here in the UK. Standout features include the fit and narrow cuff, goats skin palm, touch screen compatible index finger and thumb along with hard knuckle protection. Not cheap but I'm impressed with how they've lasted despite the high number of

miles and hours I've worn them. Yes they're weathered, but despite the use they don't feel compromised in any way. They are not cheap at close to £200 but it really is a case of getting what you pay for.

MCN rating ★★★★★
www.alpinestars.com



They've seen plenty of soggy action

16 months ON TEST

Alpinestars Fastback 2 Drystar Waterproof Shoes £174.99

They're comfy, warm and dry



Tested by Michael Neeves for 16 months/10,000 miles

These are my second pair of much-loved, year-round riding boots. My originals lasted a good 20-odd thousand miles and two years, but I eventually wore through the sole near the right toe, where I rest it on back brake lever, which I

tend to do with all boots. They were still in tip-top condition otherwise. They're warm and dry in winter, not too hot in summer, and all-day comfy on and off the bike. After 10,000 miles, these Mk2 versions are still in great condition, including the sole. Alpinestars have recently produced a third-generation model, too.

MCN rating ★★★★★
www.alpinestars.com