

TRIED & TESTED

MCN STAFF RATE THEIR RIDING KIT



The kit is AA rated for protection

3000 miles ON TEST



Waterproof layer goes over the top



Thermal layer is properly warm

Alpinestars Bogota Pro Drystar jacket £349.30 and trousers £299.99

'Three jackets in one'



Tested by Michael Neeves for nine months

I've been wearing this mid-range, three-layer, all-season jacket on launches, tests and commutes on adventure and touring bikes. I've used it in the stifling heat of southern Spain and Italy, under fresh Welsh autumn skies, sub-zero Scottish road trips, through a dark, dank British winter and everything in between.

In the heat I just wear the outer shell, where it's light, easy to move around in and this size large fits my lanky six-foot frame perfectly. It's perhaps a little too bulky to wear casually, but it's comfy on the bike and the Velcro adjustable sleeves are the perfect length and width to go over winter, or summer gloves. The hem is low enough to prevent drafts sneaking up your back and the adjustable arm and waist straps ensure a snug fit. Huge ventilation panels unzip and roll clear to reveal a mesh fabric that does a superb job of cooling you

down in hot weather, especially riding adventure bikes off-road.

The jacket comes with two removable inners: a quilted thermal jacket and a black waterproof jacket with fluorescent yellow arms. They can be fixed together and fastened inside the main jacket, or you can use one or the other. For winter riding I wear all three layers together because the rain is never far away in the UK. The waterproof layer can be worn over the outside of the jacket (or any jacket you own), which stops the fabric jacket getting waterlogged, but I wear it underneath for convenience. Used like this it always keeps warm, dry and protected from icy windblast on long trips. There are no leaks from wind or rain, although I'd like the collar to be higher, as sometimes I get a chilly neck.

The triple layer Bogota Pro Drystar Pants are just as versatile, have similarly large ventilation panels and are long enough to fit nicely over off-road boots.

They might be mid-priced in Alpinestars' line up, but both the jacket and trousers could easily pass as range-toppers. They have a quality feel and despite the amount of wear they've had in all kinds of conditions, on and off-road, still look as good as new.

With its AA rating the jacket and trousers are middle-rated (A is the lowest, AAA is the highest). Quality adventure kit like this is never cheap, but you get what you pay for and it's possible to spend a whole lot more.

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

PROS & CONS

- + Versatile, well mad, reasonably priced
- Collar could be higher to prevent draughts

Large vented panels are a bonus when you are riding in the dirt on warm days



Decent size pockets and rugged construction