

A bike lock in a million!

A garage break-in prompts Andy to invest in a quality chain and lock with maximum security rating



Rev-It Chevron, £69.99



Tester: Liam Marsden

Time tested: Two months

What's good? Rev-It gloves, for me, are a little tight-fitting at first. But they soon soften and become extremely comfy. These gloves are well vented and I'll be glad of that on long rides this summer. The lack of cuff also allows a nice breeze up your arms. They're lined with a tri-fleece liner, which doesn't irritate the skin and helps when the temperature starts to drop. Carbon fibre on the knuckles and plastic on the fingers feels rock solid and there's foam padding on the back of the wrists and around the carpal area.

What's not? If you've used only long gloves, your wrists can feel a little vulnerable at first.

Contact: www.revit.eu

Quality rating: ★★★★★

Value rating: ★★★★★



EDZ Innershell, £50



Tester: Alison Silcox

Time tested: Six years

What's good? I've always been impressed with how useful this kit is. Made from Pertex, it's worn as the last layer under riding kit and provides a windproof layer. It's such a thin material it doesn't add any bulk, nor does it bunch up, and with the fleece-lined collar it is comfortable. It's always looked like a bin bag and isn't the most attractive bit of kit but I don't care, I'd take warmth over looks any day. The price seems a little high but after six years' use, I can't complain.

What's not? It would be useful to have an integral pocket, like the ones you get in 1970s-style kagools.

Contact: www.edzlayering.com

Quality rating: ★★★★★

Value rating: ★★★★★

ABUS Granit Extreme Plus 59, £231.99



Tester: Andy Davidson

Time tested: Two months

What's good? After a recent garage break-in I quickly realised my security measures needed to be beefed up. So I decided to go for one of the best chains on the market by following my MCN colleagues' recommendations. The Granit Extreme Plus 59 popped up one too many times to be ignored.

It's not as heavy as other chains I considered, weighing in at 4.7kg (for the 140cm chain) and I don't mind lugging it about. The locking mechanism itself is covered in a protective sheath, a feature I really like as there is no faffing around with padlocks and it is far less time-consuming than a traditional padlock. The chain, lock body and locking mechanism are all made

from hardened steel, which Abus claims offers the highest protection against picking and also has more than one million key variations. I have seen no sign of rust despite using it regularly on soggy ground. It looks and feels like a high-quality product and Abus rate it at level 25, their maximum security rating.

What's not? At £231.99 the price is high, but your feeling about this depends on how much you value your bike. The purpose of a chain and lock is two-fold: to physically stop a thief from wheeling your bike away and to act as a psychological deterrent. Abus is a well-known brand and as with most things, you get what you pay for.

Contact: www.feridax.com

Quality rating: ★★★★★

Value rating: ★★★★★



Top 3 details

1. Shackle: Only one part of the chain goes in the shackle, making for an easy lock.

2. Abus code card: Use it to order additional keys. More than one Abus product can be pre-ordered keyed together so you only need one key.

3. Key light: Handy built-in blue LED is a useful extra.



Triumph Engineered denim/ Kevlar jeans, £159



Tester: Phil West

Time tested: Three months

What's good? These are my favourite 'riding jeans'. Fit, quality and stitching is good and there are nice touches: extra strong belt loops, quality detailing, Kevlar panels at bum and knees, plenty of pockets, and they're comfy enough to be worn as normal jeans. Result? I wear them on my summer commute and keep them on all day before riding home, only then slipping into my leopard print 'onesie' (joke).

What's not? They're inevitably thicker and warmer than normal jeans but are never going to offer as much protection as 'proper' attire.

Contact: www.triumphmotorcycles.co.uk

Quality rating: ★★★★★

Value rating: ★★★★★



Muc-Off Leather Care Bundle, £14



Tester: Tony Hoare

Time tested: One year

What's good? Everything you need to keep leather bike kit clean and well fed (old skin will dry out if it's not given the right nutrients and its protective qualities will deteriorate). The process is simple – put cleaning solution on one of the microfibre pads and clean your leathers. Wait for it to dry then use the other pad to apply the nourishing leather protection cream. It's very effective.

What's not? There are more satisfying ways of doing the feeding part (try Chelsea Leather Food, <http://bit.ly/leatherfood>), but the Muc-Off kit does the whole job.

Contact: www.muc-off.com

Quality rating: ★★★★★

Value rating: ★★★★★