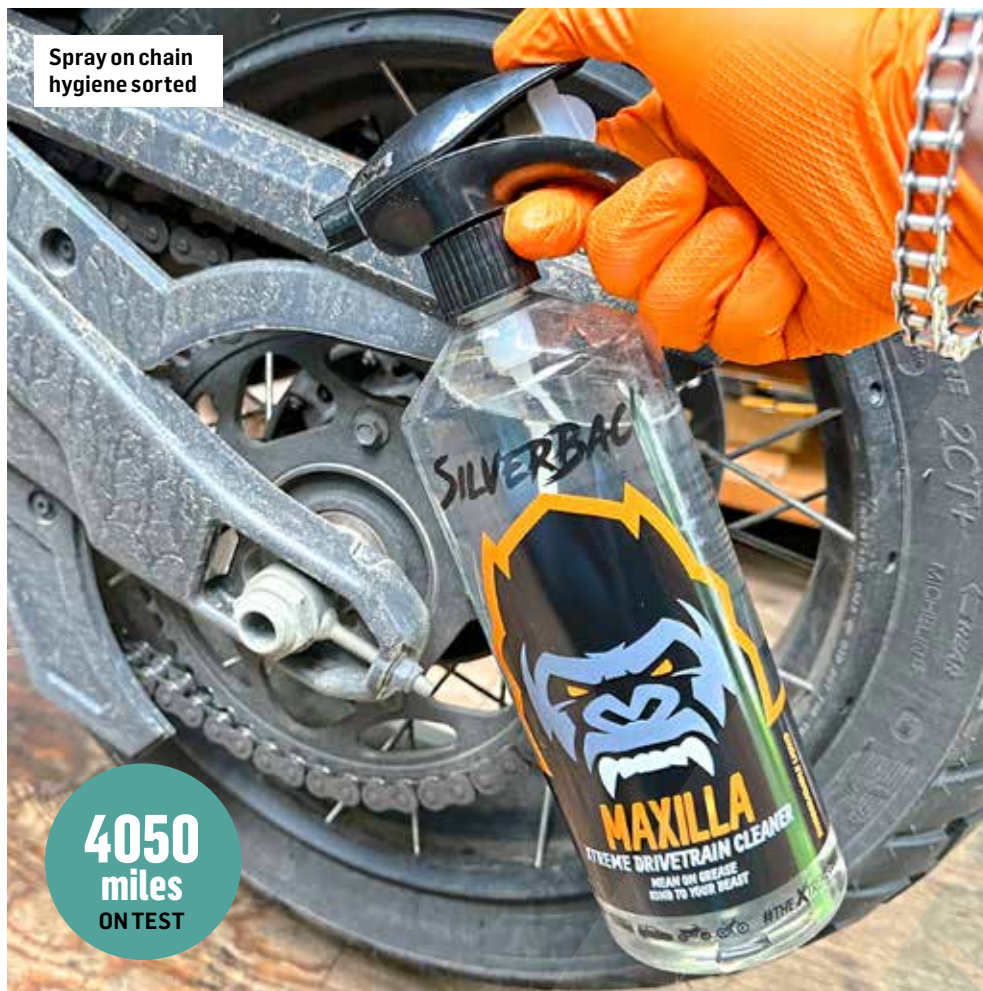




Silverback Maxilla Cleaner £14.99

'Grime drips off immediately'



Tested by Justin Hayzelden for three months

Keeping a clean and well-maintained chain is an eternal struggle, and as I cover fairly substantial miles, I generally like to stick with a chain cleaner that I know works because it saves me time in the long run. Just recently I happened to try out Silverback's Maxilla and as a result have a new addition to my shelf of go-to products. This biodegradable formula comes in a generously sized bottle with a convenient thumb action spray head, making it very easy to apply.

I wet the chain thoroughly through one rotation, then out of habit do a lighter coat for luck. Grime starts dripping off almost immediately, although it works best if you leave it for the prescribed two minutes before giving it a going over with a dedicated chain brush. Rinse off with water, and the job's a good 'un, leaving the chain ready for a new dose of lube. At £14.99 for 1 litre, it's great value for money and is effective as a general degreaser on all kinds of jobs.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
silverbackxtreme.com



Kriega R8 Waist Pack £139.99

'Faithful travel companion'



Tested by Justin Hayzelden for 19 years

With its rubberised matt black cover flaps, sturdy clips and rip-stop construction, the Kriega R8 looked tough when new, but with almost 20 years under its wide padded belt it now has an adventurer's tale or two woven into its rip-stop construction.

There's red dust from India, yellow sand from Africa and grey pumice from the Himalayas, traces of which can be found in its various nooks and crannies. On a pound for pound basis the Kriega R8 has been worth every single penny. Not only has it proved indestructible as an investment, but it's also been a lifesaver in all sorts of situations.

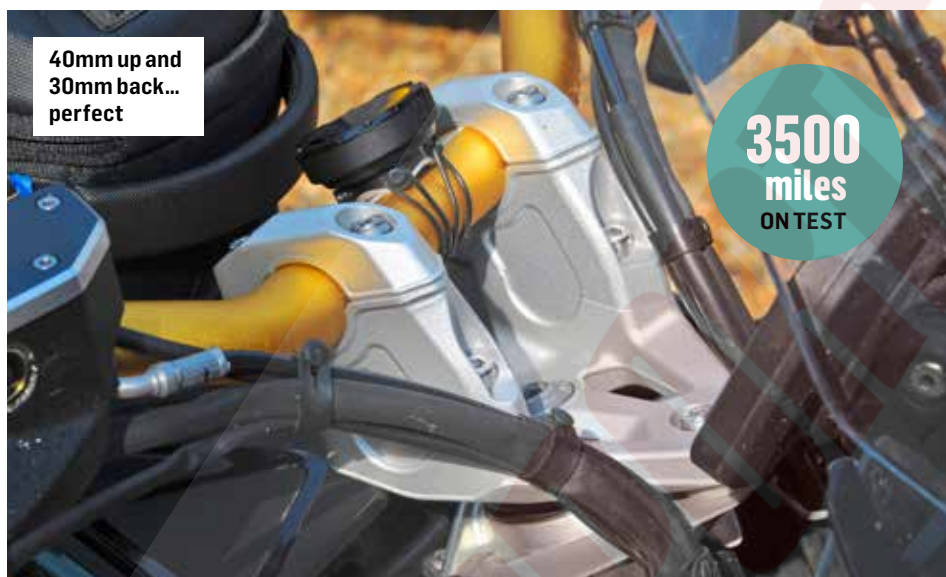
The zipped compartment in the underside of the main flap has provided a safe haven for passport and travel documents at awkward border crossings and aggressive spot checks; the waterproof roll-top side pod kept baccy, papers and filters dry through a week long monsoon ride back in the day, and on more occasions than I care to remember it's held an emergency bottle of water and some back up snacks for when the ride ended up being longer than expected.

Fastening is with a simple plastic click-together clip, but like most Kriega bags, the clever bit is in the adjustment. With a tug on the alloy ring it can be easily cinched up (or loosened), but once set, remains exactly the same length whatever you put it through.

Despite being subjected to countless hours of intense UV sunlight, skin-soaking humidity and freezing temperatures at altitude, all the plastic fittings are intact, there's no rot to the fabric and the padding still cushions. It's remarkable really. Yes, there are some signs of wear, and the front outer pocket is starting to get a bit thin in places, but every part of the Kriega R8 is still functioning exactly as it should. In terms of build quality, it's surpassed its 10-year guarantee almost twice over, and that'll certainly do for me.

There aren't many things in my life, let alone my motorcycle kit, that have been in regular use as long as this Kriega R8 waist pack, and as a reliable, functional lightweight luggage solution I can't recommend it enough. It's been a faithful companion on many an adventure and has more than enough life left in it for plenty more in the future.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
kriega.com



Evotech Performance R1300GS risers £104.99

'They'll give you a pleasing little lift'



Tested by Richard Newland for two months

Nothing has more impact on your comfort and control than the relationship between bars, seat and footpegs. Changing any one of them will transform how your bike feels – especially if the adjustment is significant. These bar risers for the R1300GS are a double-whammy, lifting the bar by 40mm, and moving it towards the rider by 30mm. That's a lot. Hewn from aluminium billet, they're then anodized to match the original BMW silver finish so that they look indistinguishably OEM when fitted.

In use, the benefits manifest themselves as: more comfort during long days, sitting you up more and taking some pressure off wrists and shoulders; a dramatic improvement in position when standing on the pegs for off-road riding; and a generally improved riding position in terms of visibility as your shoulders are pushed back, raising your head. The downsides are constrained to needing to work your arms and core harder under acceleration as weight is more prone to rearward transfer. Critical is your height, though. I'm 5ft 11in.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
evotech-performance.com



Duchinni Jago/Imola £99.99/£89.99

'Brilliant kids kit'



Tested by Simon Relph's son for two years

My son Archie, now 10, loves coming out on the bike with me. To keep him warm dry and safe, I invested in a Duchinni Jago jacket and Imola trousers. Basically, it's a scaled-down adult suit with all the modern safety of Level 2 CE-approved shoulder and elbow armour in the jacket and hips and knees in the trousers.

It keeps Archie warm thanks to the quilted removable thermal lining. In summer with the lining out and vents open, the suit keeps him cool, too. The cleverest thing about it is the zipped panels on the arms and legs, which when unzipped allow the arm and legs to extend another 3cm, giving about another year's worth of use.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
thekeycollection.co.uk

2 years ON TEST