



500 miles ON TEST

Goggles aren't included. Boo...

Light, well built and impressive

Bell Moto 3 £299.99

Classic style, modern safety



Tested by Ben Clarke for two months

This latest version of Bell's classic Moto 3 helmet meets the ECE 22.06 safety

regulations for helmets, despite its old-fashioned styling and simple, lightweight design/construction.

I'm testing it in one of the more expensive colour options (Roland Sands Saddleback) which looks flippin' brilliant but there are cheaper alternatives from £249.99.

I've used a few different retro lids now and something that really struck me about the Moto 3 is how well put together it feels. It weighs in at just 1417g (that's a size Large, with the peak attached) and yet it feels so solid and high-quality to boot.

Despite having no visor and requiring goggles (an extra cost you'll want to factor in should you wish to buy one), it's even reasonably quiet on the road and because of the high chin guard design, you don't get off at the other end of a long ride with a face like an arctic explorer, either.

Overall the Bell has – so far – been very impressive. I'm hoping that continues.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.bellhelmets.co.uk



Alpinestars AMP-7 Backpack £144.99

'Best rucksack I've owned'



Tested by Michael Neeves for 13 months

This is one of the most useful, well-thought-out rucksacks I've ever owned.

I've used it on three big European riding holidays, countless road tests, in all weathers and it's travelled the world on launches. It's still in great nick, despite the heavy use. The slim, lightweight, padded polyamide/Polyester outer shell is durable, as are all its various zips, buckles and straps. The only thing broken after a year's use is a tiny, inconsequential plastic loop fitted to one of zip tabs.

It's secure and comfortable to wear, on and off the bike, thanks to its padded and vented shoulder straps, which have reflective strips. It has a buckled waist strap and a magnetic chest strap that moves up and down on a rail, so you can get it in the perfect position. All straps are adjustable.

Its 22-litre capacity is spread between a large main compartment, big enough for everything I need on a trip and padded laptop section. The front unzips all the way, letting you pack the main compartment like a suitcase, rather than having just an opening at the top. It makes packing easy. There's a zippable, mesh-fronted internal compartment to keep nick-nacks safely in one place and a zipped front pocket for smaller items. Four extra straps are used to secure the front compartment, which I can also use to hook waterproofs and jackets on. It even has three carrying handles.

The bag itself isn't waterproof but comes with an elasticated lumo yellow waterproof cover that's placed over the top and secured by four toggles. It keeps everything dry, even in a heavy storm. The cover is neatly stored away in a zipped pocket at the bottom of the bag... for when it eventually stops raining.

Even handier is a removable, zippable padded fabric inner bag that looks something like a big pencil case. I keep all my cables, cameras and more nick-nacks in there. It has a mesh front pocket which I use for earplugs and it can be secured in any position inside the main compartment on a Velcro rail.

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

10k miles ON TEST

Alpinestars Hurricane Rain Jacket £89.99

Storm in a hurricane



Tested by Michael Guy for 12 months

Over the years I've gone full circle with my choice of riding kit for wet weather. From

one-piece leathers and an all-in-one oversuit in my sportsbike era, through to fully waterproof Gore-Tex adventure suits – and now I'm back to layering-up using a super-lightweight waterproof over jacket.

For me, the advantages are clear as they give you something genuinely waterproof which then dries quickly rather than getting your actual jacket soaking wet. On the downside they are not the most attractive looking items of clothing and can be annoying to get on and off.

However, this offering from Alpinestars has a really effective lining which doesn't stick to textile or leather and makes it really easy to get on and off. It has a high neck with Velcro adjustment, Velcro adjustments on the arms and waist along with elasticated cuffs.

It's also proven, thus far, to be totally waterproof and offers another level of wind protection on cold days. At less than £90 it's also considerably cheaper than a full-on textile jacket, and I can fold it up and stick it in a rucksack when I don't need it.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
alpinestars.com



900 miles ON TEST

A dry Michael is a happy Michael



Rukka Outlast Ladies Long Johns £70

'An essential all-season layer'



Tested by Saffron Wilson for two years

If you're looking for an all-round base layer, you can't ask for much more than these Rukka

ladies' long johns. They keep you a touch toastier on those cold rides but, if it's warm, they keep you cool too. I've tried them a couple of times in the warm, yet despite adding an extra layer they didn't make me overly hot.

In the cold I wouldn't go out without them. Made for women (there are blokes' versions available) they are form-fitting and easy to slip bike kit over the top of. Even after two years' use with plenty of washing, they're still in one piece, the waistband is still stretchy and except for a few bobbles on the fabric, they're still in fine fettle.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
bikerheadz.co.uk

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