

Still looks good but the zipper can be a faff

5305 miles ON TEST

Flexible D30 armour is fitted

Klim Marrakesh Women's Jacket £400

'Bring on summer'



Tested by Saffron Wilson for 12 months

Klim say the Marrakesh jacket was made for women, by women, which results in a gorgeous fit, with an efficient, breathable 1000D Cordura outer. I found the jacket roomy, which is ideal to stick small jumpers on underneath when the weather turns.

As it's a lightweight summer garment, there's no waterproof lining but the outer is hydrophobic so light rain generally beads off. The zips have worked well but after a bit of use, it became more difficult to initially get the two parts together at the bottom and takes some fiddling. The jacket is certified to an AA rating, and comes equipped with armour in the shoulders and elbows plus a back protector – all made by D30. Level 1 rated, the armour can be removed to give the jacket a wash and the elbow pads are adjustable with internal Velcro straps so that you can tailor the armour's position for optimal fit and comfort.

It's perfectly practical, protective, and looks great on and off the bike, and I'm sure I'll be coming back to it for many summers to come as I love wearing it on the bike.

Quality ★★★★★ **Value** ★★★★★
www.klim.com



Kriega R25 £169

'Not cheap but it's worth it'



Tested by Steve Herbert-Mattick for two years

One hundred and sixty nine quid for a rucksack?! Well, yes, actually. My go-to rucksack for the last two years, the Kriega R25 is exceptionally well made and comfortable to the point you barely know you're carrying it. The 25-litre capacity is easily enough for commuting with a laptop and lunch, or carting extra layers and other gubbins for day trips.

Kriega's Quadlock harness is well known and the plaudits completely justified. It does up easily across the chest with two heavy-duty plastic clips, and distributes weight evenly around the body. The design is bottom-loaded, making it aerodynamic so it reduces fatigue from drag, while the padded straps are comfortable and don't create any pressure points anywhere on the body. Dot markers on the shoulders to get equal adjustment on either side are a genuinely useful and considered detail. The stiff straps sit naturally in an 'on-body' position, too – making them easy to slip on when you've got bulky bike kit on in colder months.

The 420D nylon rip-stop fabric makes no claims to be waterproof yet this bag has never actually leaked in all the time I've been using it. Capacity is spot-on for daily use with one large compartment for everything (there's a small pouch under the reflective panel on the front for quick access to smaller items).

The arched zip opening for the main compartment can make it quite difficult to access your stuff. It's best done with the bag laying on the ground. And a good chunk of the space is above the zip meaning quite often, whatever I'm trying to carry falls out before I can zip it up. It's the one quite (very) annoying thing about what is otherwise a completely excellent product.

It features an internal sleeve that can take a back protector or Hydrapack (sold separately) and has four adjustable compression straps to secure the load. There's a small, reinforced internal key compartment, a wire-reinforced carry handle, super-strong 1000D Cordura base and harness material and significant padding on the back. This adds up to a not insignificant 1.4kg but you don't notice the weight once you've got it on.

In two years nothing's broken, nothing's failed. It feels like it will last another 10.

Quality ★★★★★ **Value** ★★★★★
kriega.com

The only love handles you need

250 miles ON TEST

Oxford Rider Grips £42.99

'Belt up and get a sturdy grip...'



Tested by Al Silcox for one month

When you sit on the pillion perch you put ultimate trust in the rider, they're in control of the ride and all you need to do is make sure you stay on board. For a pillion, this can be quite a daunting task, particularly if you're riding two-up on a sportsbike where there's likely to be no rear grab rails, which means the only option is to hold on to the rider.

Here's where the Oxford Rider Grips come in to play. Similar products have been on the market for years, they are basically a pair of

sturdy, plastic handles, attached to a wide belt. The belt secures to the rider and the pillion then grabs onto the handles, rather than the rider.

When my colleague and I put these to the test, we did a couple of hours ride and I found the handles to be well placed. They were large enough to accommodate bulky winter gloves and sat slightly forward on the rider's waist but not so far forward I felt uncomfortably close. They seem well made and it's clear that a lot of thought has gone into them.

Quality ★★★★★ **Value** ★★★★★
www.oxfordproducts.com

Stash one in your pocket

V2 Sponge Visor Cleaner 4-pack £14

'Instant vision'



Tested by Justin Hayzelden for six months

If there's one problem that unites all bikers, it's the eternal struggle for a clean visor. From spring to autumn our window to the world is a killing ground for flying insects, and in the few months we get relief from that, it's a magnet for toxic road gunk. But carry one of these nifty packets in your pocket, and clear vision can be restored in an instant. The award-winning Visorvision V2 sponge has been around for almost 20 years, and I've been relying on the product for about as long. It comes in a resealable bag with a washable drying cloth, and each one has a lifespan of around six months (with heavy use). I never leave home without one!

Quality ★★★★★ **Value** ★★★★★
visorvision.co.uk

5000 miles ON TEST