

TRIED & TESTED

MCN STAFF RATE THEIR RIDING KIT



A great fit and ideal for springtime rides

2000 miles ON TEST



Ample storage for essentials should you need it

Keis heated ladies bodywarmer B501WRP, battery charger and power controller, £230.00

'A warm, comforting hug'



Tested by Saffron Wilson, 2000 miles/12 months

With the weather is still a little on the chilly side, biking can sometimes seem a little less like a pleasurable activity and more like a cumbersome challenge you've begun to dread... depending on how many miles you're eating up, of course. But this heated vest takes away some of the chill and makes every ride a lot more enjoyable.

While testing, I used both the portable battery (2600mAh) as well as the direct connection to the bike. The battery worked better than expected considering it is such a small and unobtrusive item. But as I was doing long miles at the time, it was a little disappointing that it only lasted a couple of hours (although in the grand scheme of things, that was pretty good going). I discovered that using a lower heat setting helped as I also had use of the power controller, but it's something

to be mindful of if you're doing long trips in the cold or buy the larger battery (5200mAh for around £110). As for connecting straight to the battery, it was easy to install and worked like a dream. Just remember to unplug yourself before you throw a leg off the bike.

But how does it actually perform as a heated vest? In a word, fabulously! I'd had a coil heated jacket before, and this was a lot more comfortable, and gave you warmth without thinking you'd accidentally set your jacket on fire. The heated collar was a godsend once I'd mastered the art of putting my neck tube over it instead of under, and even over a couple of T-shirt layers you could definitely feel the warmth. The bodywarmer is a good choice to keep you toasty without restricting the movement in your arms, but after a few hours in the saddle in the snow, I could have used some more heat on my arms! But next time, I think I'll hook it up to the Keis gloves and see what a difference that makes.

It's worth noting that the vest is a reasonable £159 which comes equipped with the bodywarmer itself, the Keis Vehicle Supply Loom (so you can connect it to your motorcycle battery) and a set of instructions. But realistically, you're going to want the rest of the bundle. This includes extras like a remote to control the heat and a portable battery charger, but for the whole set you're looking at around £230 (though there's usually a bundle offer that knocks off a few quid).

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.keisapparel.com

PROS & CONS

- +** Simple to hook up to a bike, top comfort and enviable warmth
- Battery life won't last all day (but connecting to the bike will)

Portable battery slips neatly into the vest's internal pocket



Optional power controller has three heat settings