



Forcefield Pro L2

£70

Using a flexible triangular rubber, rather than the pieces of hard ninja-turtle-style plastic you see on many protectors, this scores highly for impact absorption. It was second highest in our sister mag RiDE's protection test this year. After a couple of rides it fits to your body well. It's slim and lightweight and easy to slip under leathers and adjust with the waist and shoulder straps. The most unimposing and comfortable back protector I have worn. **KH**

Rating ****

www.forcefieldbodyarmour.co.uk



Silicone lubricant Free with every Arai helmet (not available separately)

The mysterious little bottle that comes attached to the chinstrap of every new Arai helmet and ends up at the back of your odds 'n' sods drawer. Crack it open, put a single drop of the silicone lube on the top of the rubber visor seal and smear it round with the tip of your finger. Do the same with the bottom seal. Do not lick your

finger. Do this once a month and keep the rubber supple, extend the lid's life and maintain a snug seal between visor and rubber. **MH**

Rating *****

www.phoenixnw.co.uk



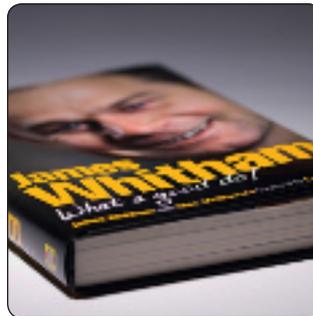
Oxford Comfy

£9 for a pack of three

Designed for use in spring and autumn, the Comfy is a lightweight, breathable but wind-resistant neck/head tube. It's entirely seam free, stretchy and very quick drying. Comes in plain colours or all manner of garish/adorable (delete as applicable) designs. Worth sticking in your rucksack, 'just in case'. **KH**

Rating ***

www.oxprod.com



James Whitham What a Good Do!

£19

Can he write as wittily as he talks when commentating on Eurosport? Er, unfortunately not, but on occasions our favourite Yorkshireman comes close, ably assisted by former *Bike* editor Mac McDiarmid. And once you get past the growing up in Huddersfield stuff, which is only really for the hardcore Whitham stalkers, former British Superbike champion Jamie's tale makes an interesting and engaging read. If only because it emphasises just how big the gap is between the top-flight racers and those who rise even higher still to be world champions. It's easy to forget just how good Whitham was because he spent a career being eclipsed by his best mate Foggy (who writes the foreword to this book).

Read this and remind yourself not only how versatile Jamie was but how good he was, too. Our best advice is to skip the first couple of chapters, though.

Rating ***

www.haynes.co.uk



Oxford Handysack

£10

This super-small, fold-up bag is made from flexible 600D polyester. What does this mean? It's slightly abrasion resistant - think more kicking it round the floor than withstanding a 170mph off on the Parabolica. It's also showerproof and unlikely to be punctured by internal items. It's not designed for heavy items or long-distance, but stuck under a seat or in a bum-bag, it's perfect for unplanned carrying jobs. **KH**

Rating ***

www.oxprod.co.uk



X-Lite X801RR

£360

After a highside this sacrificed itself so I could go back out and finish my racing in a spare lid. I took impacts on the front and rear as I bounced toward's Cadwell's Mountain section, but wasn't knocked out and was cleared to race on by medics. I'd not used the lid often on track, as the lining absorbed sweat readily and didn't dry out between sessions. A wicking lining is better for that, but is harsher on the skin, which is why the X-Lite had been my favourite road lid. The only complaint was a tendency for the visor to scratch where it touched the seal. **TH**

Rating ***

www.tranam.co.uk

Rating Guide * Avoid ** Acceptable (basic but cheap/good but overpriced) *** Good, worth the money, happy to use
**** Better than expected. Recommended ***** Exceptional. Highly recommended