

NEW YAMAHA V-MAX

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✓ DUCATI CORSE GLOVES

Contact: www.ducatiuk.com

Lovely soft calfskin lightweight gloves with composite exterior protection, titanium inserts, a stretch panel between thumb and forefinger and a cloth lining on the back of your hand. They give loads of feel through the palm and fingers, without being fragile. Made by Dainese, they're available in black and white or red, black and white, in sizes S to XXL. Best avoided if you're not riding a Ducati. **COLIN OVERLAND**



✓ TCX JUPITER 2 XCR SCOOTER BOOTS

Contact: www.tcxboots.com

They look like boxing boots or casual paddock wear, but they're far sturdier than that. Their makers categorise them as all-round boots, but we think of them as scooter boots, in that they offer some protection from the weather and very minor accidents, but we couldn't in all conscience recommend something this short for serious motorcycle use.

The mostly suede upper is reinforced with a fabric called Airtex, and feels good - flexible but supportive. The replaceable inner soles are well shaped, and there are proper tough outer soles. The XCR bit of the name refers to a more breathable type of Gore-Tex, and they're not kidding: you really can keep these on all day without getting pongy.

They lace up, with a Velcro band at the top which may not appear to perform any useful function but actually gives a more secure feeling and keeps more of the draught out. Available in sizes 36-48. **COLIN OVERLAND**

✓ ARC-ON STEALTH TWO-PIECE LEATHERS

Contact: www.arc-on.co.uk

Arc-On are a new British clothing company - run by bikers for bikers - who design their own kit and sell it over the web. Their launch line-up is topped by this two-piece leather suit, which comes with removable Knox body armour and an all-around zip to attach the two pieces together for serious riding. Don't be fooled by the price into thinking that this is some sort of bargain-basement tat - far from it. The company are able to keep their prices competitive because their overheads are so low, with no showrooms or teams of sales reps to support.

Visually it's a low-key suit, with just a few flashes of red on the matt black leather and only the subtlest of branding. You can tell it's been designed by people who ride bikes. There are pockets where you need them, but not too many. The cowhide is soft and decently thick, at 1.2-1.4mm, and Kevlar and corrugated leather stretch panels are used in all the right places so that it's a good fit when you're riding and OK to walk around in. The anti-bacterial lining feels fine on your bare skin, if that's how you like to ride. The hump on the back is a bit firm - and quite a nuisance if you're wearing a rucksack - but Arc-On say they're going to soften it.

At a glance the Stealth suit looks similar to the Racing suit, the jacket of which costs £50 less, but the various small changes to the stretch panels, waist, pockets etc add up to a less impressive suit. Stick with the Stealth. It's available in jacket sizes 40-48, and they also do bespoke suits. **COLIN OVERLAND**

