

IN THESE WE TRUST...

Five *Bike* staffers on the gear they use every day



SIMON WEIR



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ADRIAN STEAR



SIMON HARGREAVES

> MAKE AND MODEL	Ixon Galactican (discontinued)	Furygan Blade jacket/Lead trousers	Texport Trip jacket and trousers	Alpinestars Stunt 2 jacket and Track pants
> PRICE NEW	Equivalent Fearless two-piece £250/£200 (£450)	£300/£300 (£600)	£770 (matching pair only)	£300/£250 (£550)
> LEATHER	1.2-1.4mm cowhide	1.3mm cowhide	1.2-1.4mm cowhide	1.2-1.4mm cowhide
> USED FOR	Three years	12 months	Eight years	12 months
> ARMOUR	Shoulders, knees, hips and elbows. There's a foam pad in the back, but I wear a proper back protector.	Large, rubberised CE armour at elbows, shoulders, knees and on the thighs and a hard CE back protector.	Hard plastic shell with foam backing on shoulders, elbows, knees - not CE. No back protector.	CE shoulder and elbow armour, foam back pad in the jacket and hard knee and shin armour in the pants.
> COMFORT	Good. Being 6ft 5in makes it hard to get leathers that fit. These are long enough in the body, though sleeves and legs are a bit short. There's plenty of stretch panels so they're snug but comfy.	The tailored fit suits my small stature better than most. Stretchy bits abound in all the right places.	Yes, lots of stretchy panels make them snug and flexible. I like the very 'crouched' cut, and the ability to separate them makes them much more comfortable to wear off the bike than a one-piece suit.	Zip together and fit well - the Track pants come in tall or normal cut. Both have lots of stretch panels and there's plenty of room around the crotch (because, trust me ladies, I need it).
> BUILD QUALITY	Sturdy. Major seams are double stitched, with two thicknesses of leather on elbows, knees and arse.	Coolmax lining, aluminium thermal layer and 1.3mm leather are good. Leather is water-repellent, too.	Good. All stitching, seams and zips still intact. Vulnerable seams are double stitched. Chunky joining zip.	Leather is 1.2- 1.4mm; this sort of two-piece is always a compromise between fashion, comfort and protection.
> ANY NIGGLES?	Just the short legs and sleeves. Boots and gloves with a long cuff take care of it. Trousers, disappointingly, lack pockets.	The thigh pads are a bit annoying in a racing crouch.	Lining isn't removable. The armour isn't CE approved. There are no external pockets.	None - honestly.
> BEST FEATURE	Comfort. Really very easy to wear for a full day.	They make me feel nigh-on invincible, and Furygan styling is second to none.	Comfortable and unobtrusive - good everyday bike wear.	Both trousers and jacket (with a liner) are warmer than I expected.
> RATING	★★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★★
> CONTACT	www.thunderchild.co.uk	www.furygan.fr	www.londonbiker.com	www.alpinestars.com