

NECK WARMERS TESTED BY RAPID TRAINING INSTRUCTORS

Police riders and advanced riding instructors test our neck tubes

Some products are proudly derived from racing experience. For others that's utterly irrelevant - what matters are the needs of the average individual who spends a long period of time out on a motorcycle in all weathers. Comfort, durability and value are the priorities.

That's why we asked the instructors from Rapid Training to test these neck tubes. They're all Police Class One riders, all have raced - and they all

spend hours at a time on bikes every week, either for The Job, instructing, or simply riding for pleasure.

We asked the instructors to use each tube for a minimum of 100 miles (though most were used for far more) in as wide a range of conditions as possible. Tubes were assessed for fit, feel of material and warmth and we asked for general impressions.

+ For more information about Rapid, visit www.rapidtraining.co.uk



WHAT TO LOOK FOR

Fit is crucial. It's not so much the size of your neck or chin that's the issue so much as whether you can do your usual jacket up over the tube, and how it sits inside your helmet. Crucially, can you turn your head properly while wearing it?

Bear in mind that the thickest tubes aren't

always the warmest - and in any case, there's a fine line between being cosy and being too hot and sweaty. Especially when you slow down in town. If you can try on a variety of neck warmers - maybe at the NEC Bike Show in November - you'll soon get an idea of what best suits you and your riding kit.

Held 9053 Gore Windstopper

Price £9.99

Material Polyester

Contact www.getgeared.co.uk

Andy Morrison: It's actually quite short, so wind can get by if you don't take the time to make sure it's properly tucked in. Fit is reasonably tight. Feels scratchy when you first put it on.



Held 9057 Polar Fleece

Price £7.99

Material Fleece/polyester

Contact www.getgeared.co.uk

Rob Embleton: A little thick, causing problems fastening jackets at the neck and restricting movement for shoulder checks and lifesavers. A little hot and clammy too. Fit was too tight for me but the material felt pleasant.



Hein Gericke Basic Neck Collar

Price £4.99

Material Polyester/fleece lining

Contact www.hein-gericke.co.uk

Graham Allen: This tube wraps around your neck like a false collar with a Velcro front fastening. Getting the fit just right is the fiddly bit - the Velcro can be itchy if not fitted just right. Very warm when fitted correctly.



EDZ Yeti

Price £15

Materials double-sided micro fleece

Contact www.edz.biz

Jon Taylor: Very warm and cosy, though too bulky. Needs a jacket with a generous neck. Doesn't cover shoulder or chest area, but is easy to put on and off. Fleece material feels lovely.



Oxford Comfy

Price £8.95 for three

Materials FibreTec

Contact www.oxprod.com

Mark Edwards: Simple design and comfy fit. I would definitely choose this one. Not such high quality as the Buff, but a better motorcycling product in my opinion. Fit and warmth are good and the material feels pleasant.



EDZ All-Season Multitube

Price £10

Material Polyester

Contact www.edz.bik

Andy Morrison: Probably the nicest tube I've worn; comfortable to the point I didn't feel like I was wearing it. Material feels lovely, fit is very good and it's reasonably warm too.



Hein Gericke Multifunction Tube

Price £10.99

Material Polyester

Contact www.hein-gericke.co.uk

Tony Gabb: Very effective, but too tight for me, which made it uncomfortable and the material's a bit scratchy. Really good at keeping the wind out.



Original Buff

Price £11.97

Material Polyester

Contact www.buffwear.co.uk

Rob Embleton: I do use one of these most days. It's a handy bit of kit, fitting under the collars of summer and winter jackets and still allowing me to turn my head. So comfortable I often forget I'm wearing it off the bike.



Polar Buff

Price £19.99

Material Polyester with

Polartec fleece

Contact www.buffwear.co.uk

Mark Edwards: Good quality but I thought there was too much of it - give me a rifle and I'd look like a Taliban fighter! Fit was good, material felt lovely and it is warm.



i-Nek Winter

Price £9.99

Material Fleece/polyester

Contact www.motrax.co.uk

Graham Allen: Fit is good in the stretchy way of microfibre, but the lower fleecy part can be bulky around jacket fastenings. Warmth is good, with a wicking feeling to the tube portion.



i-Nek Summer

Price £4.99

Material Polyester

Contact www.motrax.co.uk

Tony Gabb: Very comfortable and surprisingly warm for such relatively thin material. Fit is good and material feels pleasant.



Oxford Chill Out

Price £12.99

Contact www.oxprod.com

Material Chilltex fleece

Jon Taylor: Keeps the wind out well, and warmer than it looks - though still not that warm. Fit is loose, but it's still difficult to get off when shopping. Material feels pleasant.

