

# PEOPLE POWER Inner gloves tested by London's bike cops

Not many riders are doing big miles every day in winter – but the Met's motorcycle patrol riders are. We asked them to put their fingers on the line in the name of product testing

Words **Simon Weir** Pictures **Mark Manning**

→ People who've never ridden a bike in the depths of winter will never truly understand the peculiar, excruciating agony of wind-frozen fingers (unless perhaps they've climbed the north face of the Eiger in January). Hands don't just get cold – they pass through 'cold' and into some state where hot shooting pains alternate with numbed shivering.

Trouble is, these tortured, hyper-sensitive/sensation-deprived hands operate the major controls on the bike. Keeping them warm enough to retain good feel is vital not merely for comfort but also for safety: if you have no feel for the brakes or throttle it's easy to make a mistake that could, in



Will your glove still fit? Try before you buy

the worst case, end with you sliding down a frozen road, all the way to A&E.

So keeping hands warm is really important. If you don't want to splash out on heated grips or heated gloves, your best bet is a set of inner gloves – another layer to keep the cold out.

There are a few points here, though. Just squeezing your hands into a pair of inners may not make your hands warmer – if they're too constrictingly tight, they may restrict the blood flow through your fingers and your hands will actually feel colder. Also, tight inners may restrict your hands' movement – not good.

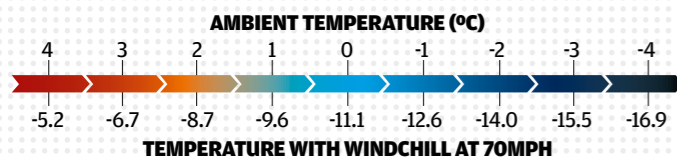
Thick inner gloves may also insulate you from the controls as well as from the cold, so checking that you still have a good feel for what the bike is doing is important. You must also be able to actually get the inners on inside your riding gloves – a bulky inner pinched vice-tight on your hand by the outer glove will constrict bloodflow just as much as an inner that's too small. A budget winter outer glove a size larger than you normally wear may be the solution – just check the sums to make sure you're not spending more than you would on a set of heated grips.



## Our testers

Our testers for this trial by freezing conditions were the riders of the Metropolitan police force's motorcycle task team. In warmer months, these dedicated bikers spend a portion of their time sharing their knowledge and skills with riders on the BikeSafe scheme, but in winter they're out there in all weathers looking for dodgy drivers – an ideal band to test inner gloves. For information about the excellent BikeSafe scheme, visit [www.bikesafe.co.uk](http://www.bikesafe.co.uk)

## WINDCHILL CALCULATOR HOW COLD IS IT?



### Rev'it Psycho WB

£15.99 [www.revit.eu](http://www.revit.eu)

→ Good-quality glove with a good fit. Noticeable increase in warmth on palms and fingers were OK. Comfortable to wear under summer gloves. **Paul Mostyn**  
→ Nice-fitting glove that bedded in well under the outer glove. Kept fingers warm even through a 120-mile ride at 4°C.

**Brady Woodnick**



### Oxford Chill Out

£15.99 [www.oxprod.com](http://www.oxprod.com)

→ Good-quality feel, but when worn under the outer glove seemed to come up tight, restricting feel for controls. Hands felt cold. **Colin Paris**  
→ Slightly loose fit but still very comfortable. Also very warm without making fingers sweaty. Very good off the bike as well – they'd be a good après ski glove. **Brady Woodnick**



### EDZ light thermal inner glove

£6 [www.edz.biz](http://www.edz.biz)

→ Comfortable to wear, but the polyester fleece didn't keep hands warm on a 5°C day. **Keith Johnson**  
→ Too thick to fit comfortably under my gloves well and I found the fingers were short. Good to wear off the bike, but no great warming properties when riding.

**Paul Mostyn**



### EDZ all season inner glove

£7.50 [www.edz.biz](http://www.edz.biz)

→ Cheap-feeling gloves that misshaped easily and had a lot of snags after only one day's use. No noticeable warming properties – but were tested at -4°C! **Paul Mostyn**  
→ Fitted nicely under heavy or lightweight gloves and allowed light gloves to be worn in more extreme weather. Fingertips still got cold, though. **Paul Cleevely**



### Bikers underglove

£17.99 [www.nevis.uk.com](http://www.nevis.uk.com)

→ Nice-fitting underglove that gave good feel for the controls and kept the whole hand nice and warm. **Colin Paris**  
→ Best of the sets I tested. A bit tight around the wrist, but could fit under lightweight or heavy outer gloves. Fingertips did still get a little cold in extreme weather. **Paul Cleevely**



### Spada inner gloves

£9.99 [www.feridax.com](http://www.feridax.com)

→ A little baggy, but kept hands warm between freezing and 3°C, without getting sweaty. **Keith Johnson**  
→ I found they were a bit thick – I got them on under lightweight gloves but couldn't get my heavy gloves on with them. **Paul Cleevely**



### Held 2231

£10.50 [www.held.de](http://www.held.de)

→ Very comfortable, but so thin I wasn't sure there was much warmth benefit. They did stop the annoying outer-glove linings pulling out when taking those off. **Brady Woodnick**  
→ Slightly long on the fingers and the material snagged easily (especially on Velcro). Actually quite warm, though both little fingers still got cold. **Paul Mostyn**



### Held 2238

£10 [www.held.de](http://www.held.de)

→ A good fit and warm – they felt like they were insulating even without outer gloves. They look less technical than the others in the test but felt just as warm. **Brady Woodnick**  
→ Not the warmest here and don't look like the best-made set either. **David Carter**



### Screwfix lightweight Kevlar glove 56956

£4.30 [www.screwfix.com](http://www.screwfix.com)

→ Nice fit that gave good feel for the controls, but palm remained cold – though knuckles and fingers were slightly warmer.

**Colin Paris**



### Cold Killers Soft Shell glove

£14.99 [www.planet-knox.com](http://www.planet-knox.com)

→ Felt good under the glove, didn't restrict movement or feel and hands remained warm. Good glove. **Colin Paris**  
→ Comfortable, look well-made, worn with temperatures down to -1°C and still kept hands warm. Quality items. **Keith Johnson**



### Buffalo Windfilter

£3.49 [www.mandp.co.uk](http://www.mandp.co.uk)

→ A good glove with decent warming properties. Slightly tight, though. Good off the bike too. **Paul Mostyn**  
→ Comfortable, well made and breathable. Used in 3°C temps and kept the windchill out. **Keith Johnson**



### Hein Gericke silk inner glove

£12.99 [www.hein-gericke.co.uk](http://www.hein-gericke.co.uk)

→ Good inners under summer gloves... but not in winter. Not warm enough at 5°C. **Keith Johnson**  
→ Well made, very easy to put on and a superb fit under the outer glove – because they're so thin. Struggle to match the thicker models for warmth. **Brady Woodnick**



### Bering Sous Gaunts

From £24.95 01745 823333

→ A good-quality glove with a nice level of warmth. Being bulky, they were a tight under my gloves. **Paul Mostyn**  
→ Quality feel and look. Comfortable until bike gloves went on top – they're so thick they became too tight and made it hard to operate the controls. They did keep the cold out, though. **David Carter**



### Bering Zirtex Sous Gaunts

From £12.95 01745 823333

→ Easy to get on with the outer glove, comfortable, look well-made. Light colour means they'll show the dirt quickly, though. Used on a cold but not freezing day and they were OK, but not warm. **David Carter**  
→ Nice-fitting underglove which gave good feel for the controls. Kept hand warm all over. **Colin Paris**



### Become a RiDE tester

→ Do you and your mates want to become testers for RiDE? We need groups of riders who ride all year round. You may work together with bikes, you may all commute on bikes to the same office, perhaps you just meet up every weekend – it doesn't matter how you know each other, as long as you know your stuff and you're out there come rain or shine.  
→ Simply email [ride@ride.co.uk](mailto:ride@ride.co.uk) and tell us a little bit about your group. How many of you there are, how many miles you ride every week, what kind of bikes you ride... that kind of thing. We may ask your group to do a product test for us, we may invite you on a road test. So get involved – become a RiDE tester now!