

Stan's NoTubes DART tubeless repair kit £25

A punctured tubeless tyre that won't seal with sealant alone could cost you £60 or more to replace, so a repair kit is a worthwhile investment. The DART tool holds a pair of feathered 'darts'. You have to push one of these through the puncture, and it then remains in place once the tool is removed. This gives a broader, more textured surface for the sealant to act around, to help it repair bigger holes. The darts also have a treatment designed to react to Stan's sealant (and therefore Schwalbe's rebadged Doc Blue too) to further aid coagulation. We sealed punctures successfully with Muc-Off and Effetto Mariposa's sealants too. The tool is light, and has plastic caps to protect the darts while in your pack. Jabbing the tyre is easy, thanks to the narrow point of the dart - no need to open the hole out wider here. We found it effective on all but the largest of cuts (where doubling up on darts can help, if you have enough) and holes right by the rim (which it struggled to seal, but did at least help us finish our ride, with a couple of top-ups). The DART kit looks pricey, with only two darts included, but refill packs with five darts are £20 and £4 per use seems reasonable to save £60 worth of rubber. Tom www.paligap.cc

MBUK VERDICT

Not infallible, but still an effective, easy-to-use and lightweight way to rescue punctured rides







DMR OiOi saddle £35

The camo pattern and "Oi Oi" slogan on Ben Deakin's signature seat were always going to make it a bit of a love/ hate affair, but if you like the looks, it's a solid and robust perch for those wanting to get rowdy on a budget, especially given how much saddle prices have skyrocketed in recent years. At 256g, it's a reasonable weight for the cost. While you don't get fancy titanium rails or much built-in flex from the moulded-plastic base, it's a good shape, with a fairly flat 147mm-wide profile, a central pressure-relief groove and a nice wide nose for climbing. What it lacks in flex it makes up for with generous padding and a central cut-out in the base. It's not ultra-comfy, but we used it on some pretty big pedalling days without getting sore. The Kevlar cover feels hard-wearing too, although it does attract the dirt a bit. **Ed**

www.upgradebikes.co.uk









Polaris Tor insulated jacket £74 99

We like the styling of this lightweight, insulated bike jacket, but the fit isn't quite so pleasing. The long body length makes it scrunch up when riding, and especially pedalling. Shorter testers rolled up the bottom hem by a few centimetres to help minimise this. Warmth and comfort are good, and a few well-placed stretch panels improve freedom of movement and breathability. This is further helped by the arms (and hood), which have no insulation but are made of a windproof material. While this flaps noisily when the speed picks up, at least it tells you when you're hauling! The Tor is no wet-weather jacket, but for dry, cooler rides where you want a little extra warmth without over-bulking in a full-on down jacket, it's a useful piece to have in your bag. **Luke**

www.polaris-bikeware.co.uk

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