

Assos System 123 Gloves £99.99

WITH a separate inner, mid and outer glove, at least you are getting three pairs for your £100. As with clothing, layering traps air for maximum insulation, and each layer can perform a different task. The silk-like Roubaix inner glove is soft against the skin and, having only external seams, is also very comfortable. A thermal-lined, windproof mid-glove uses the Airblock 851, and has ample stretch to make it very comfortable and fit well, with excellent dexterity for operating controls. Long cuffs make sure there are no drafty gaps at the wrist. The outer takes the form of a lobster mitt, also Airblock 851, which takes a bit of getting used to, but the added second wind defence guards against even the strongest icy gusts. If only the outer was also waterproof this glove would have it all. SB

Yellow Ltd 01785 811810

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Prendas Windtex Stretch Overshoes £25.00

AS the name suggests the Prendas overshoes are very close fitting and are a bit more fiddly to get on than some — even with a new, apparently more stretchy Windtex material. However, the end result is a neat and good-looking overshoe.

One of the best features is the totally enclosed rubber sole, which adds a bit of time to getting it on but is well worth the effort as it practically seals the whole bottom of the shoe, preventing water from entering and keeping your feet dry and warm while providing a good tread for walking. I would recommend keeping your walking to a minimum, though, as the test pair are showing some signs of wear around the edges after a few weeks — maybe a down side to such an enclosed design. As long as the temps stay a few degrees above freezing these overshoes are warm and effective. SB

Prendas Ciclismo 01202 248649,
www.prendas.co.uk

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Crewroom Bodyshell Long Sleeve Compression Undershirt £29.99

CREWROOM is a brand expanding into cycling from rowing, but in essence the properties of the UK-made Bodyshell undershirt are transferable. The fabric is Coolmax Extreme and the garment is designed to exert a compression force, which is said to help stabilise hard-working muscles. While it is difficult to quantify any tangible benefit to cycling performance, it does at least ensure a snug fit, which helps it perform its primary function of moisture wicking very well, staying dry, and keeping skin temperature regulated. The fabric also felt soft and supple, with no restriction to movement, and the high collar prevented chilly winds getting down the front. SB

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(Crewroom) 020 8877 3888,
www.crewroom.biz

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