

CLEAN MACHINE!

M16 EXTREME PUT THROUGH ITS PACES

As you may have seen in a previous issue of this very magazine, there's nothing I like better than washing my bike after a day out riding. Sadly for M16 Extreme they supplied me with their range of cleaning products just after that issue hit the shelves but I've been using it on the DBR long-termer KTM 350 EXC-F with great results ever since.

M16 Extreme promote their cleaning products using a Podium Stage System tagline. The Podium Stage System itself consists of three products – Bike Cleaner (self explanatory), Pro Finish (sprayed on after washing) and their Helmet and Bike Guard (sprayed on to prevent mud sticking to anything that you spray it on).

Starting with the bike cleaner, it's totally safe on all parts of your bike including anodised parts so there's no need to be concerned about using a new name on the bike washing scene as I've used this a lot and I've had no issues with it.

It also comes in a decent trigger bottle which sounds odd but in the past I've found that some other brands bottles don't seem to work very well which causes a bit of frustration.

It's also scented although I can't put my finger on which one I have although it's sold with three different fragrances which vary depending on the batch which are Cherry Bomb, Bubblegum or Blueberry Blast. Mine smells a little bit like Marzipan so perhaps it was a Christmas special...

After scraping and blasting the dirt off the bike as you normally would, I apply the cleaner with the nozzle set so that it's more of a misty spray rather than a solid squirt so that it spreads

out evenly on the bike and then let it soak in for a couple of minutes while I wash my boots off.

I always use a sponge and a couple of different brushes to agitate the dirt all over the bike and as it lathers up nicely you don't miss any parts of the bike. The cleaner is fully biodegradable so for those sensitive about the environment – which should be all of us – can happily use the M16 Extreme Bike Cleaner wherever they like, as can anyone else for that matter.

After the bike is clean it's important to get the bike dry and I used a couple of microfibre cloths that M16 Extreme also supply and then I applied their Pro Finish to all the plastics on the top side, handguards, handlebars (not the grips) and also the hubs as mud doesn't build up much if at all in these areas.

I then use a dry microfibre cloth to buff the Pro Finish and this really does give the bike a gleaming finish. It covers up any scratches in the plastics and graphics which there are plenty of on the DBR long-termer KTM because of the nature of the riding that I've been doing. I've been riding past low tree branches that have rubbed along the side of the bike that make the bike look well used before the bikes been washed and prepped using the M16 products.

I then use the Helmet and Bike Guard on the underside of the mudguards, engine and exhaust, rims, forks and fork guards, tyres and sump guard. The reason for this is that these are the areas where you will get a lot of mud build up or areas where mud can burn into the exhaust and the ignition/clutch cover.

I spray it on and leave it under the mudguards and on the tyres however on the other areas I use a dry microfibre cloth to work it into the surface ensuring that everything is covered and it will leave a strong and clear non-sticky film that dirt can't penetrate.

This makes the next clean up job a lot easier

and therefore much quicker after using this product as it basically acts as a barrier between the bike and the dirt so when pressure washing the next time it's dirty the mud just seemingly falls off.

I've been using the Podium Stage System from M16 Extreme for a few months now and I've been really impressed with how well it works as a cleaning kit. The very same kit that I've been using can be purchased on their website – m16extreme.com – or you may find it in your local dealer where you can find the full range on their shelves.

M16

Extreme Bike Clean £8.13

Pro Finish £12

Helmet & Bike Guard £13.50

Supplier: m16extreme.com

Contact: 01666 817577



NEW THREADS!

LEATT 5.5 RACEWEAR REVIEWED

As I've stated many times in this publication I (that's Max Hind talking y'all – Sutty) am a big fan of Leatt and how they continuously try to push the boundaries in terms of the safety aspect of our sport. It started with the neck brace and over the years Leatt have produced an entire range of protective products.

Earlier this year Leatt unveiled their new helmet and it only seemed like a matter of time before they completed the collection and released their very own riding gear. And here we have it, the Leatt GPX 5.5 jersey and pant.

As you'd expect from Leatt this stuff is innovative in its own right. The 5.5 jersey utilizes an ultra-light four-way stretch MoistureCool wicking mesh fabric. It has brush guard fabric protection over the elbows and tape bonded seams that provide maximum comfort while retaining critical reinforcement with a bar task stitch. The collar has been designed to be used with or without a neck brace, the jersey utilises an athletic stretch fit as well as having laser cut ventilation and a silicone printed tail to connect and grip to the pants.

The pants are tailored, pre-curved slim fit pants with laser-cut ventilation. Over 75 per cent of the pant is made using super lightweight, ventilated diamond stretch material. The pant features I.K.S – Internal Knee Brace System – that protects your pants and bike from knee brace wear.

As well as this the pant features a 3D moulded, fully floating knee cap reinforcement. We have

a heavy duty seat material and a NanoGrip inner leg. A YKK zipper stops the zip from falling down mid ride and a new shorter micro adjuster waist belt with 360 degree silicone grip with side belt adjusters further prevents this fall down.

When wearing the gear for the first time you really notice the high-end quality of the materials used. The tight, athletic fit of the jersey looks damn cool and fits in with the trend that the kids are into these days. However I did find that this tight fit made it a little more difficult to wear body armour underneath the jersey. It still feels very comfortable though and very light and very breezy on the track. I really like how the collar works with – and stretches around – the neck brace easily.

At first I thought the pants were way too big and baggy (the opposite of the super tight fitting jersey) then I realised that I hadn't adjusted the side belt adjusters accordingly. Once I fixed those I had a perfect fit. I really dig the little details that Leatt have thought about, such as the small piece of Velcro that prevents the zipper from falling down and the silicon tail that has been designed to grip the pant and stop the jersey from being untucked. The pants fit really well around my big bulky knee braces and so far the IKS has worked a treat and prevented any major wear or tear.

The 5.5 gear comes in a range cool and striking colour ways that in my opinion look pretty sick. Leatt were pumped to unveil this new kit and that's understandable. The 5.5 range is top notch.

LEATT

Leatt 5.5 pants £140

Leatt 5.5 jersey £59

Leatt 5.5 gloves £53

Supplier: apico.co.uk

Contact: 01282 473190

