

Gear Test Report: Rondoy K Series Jacket

Fox Jaw Cirque, Tasilaq fjord, East Greenland (Wall to Wall expedition Greenland 2014)

Alt: 900m

Temps: - Milder than expected. 10°C daytime. 0°C night-time. Very cold air falling down the rock face from the polar ice cap.

Wind: gusts 20mph

Rain: 3 days light rain. 1 day heavy rain.

A five week trip first ascending around the Tasilaq ford, East Greenlan. Several new routes and repeat routes. Simon Smith took and tested the first Rondoy K Jacket PHD made.

Feed back on Performance of Rondoy K Jacket from Simon Smith

Warmth:

Wonderfully cosy. Perfect for chilly evenings at bivis, reassuring as a belay jacket shared between two on colder climbs later in the trip. Comfortably toasty for evenings sat around in base camp. Essential for keeping me warm while periodically dunking my broken heel in glacial melt-water to bring down the swelling!

Design:

Very good fit allowing the jacket to loft while not being too bulky or cumbersome, good closure to keep out draughts, bulkier shoulder material good for rucksack wear, tailored fit meant good length of arm (I struggle with other manufacturer's long arms) resulting in good movement, sleeves didn't ride up, jacket lofts up very easily and quickly and the down didn't seem to migrate or escape, felt quite rugged like I could give it a bit of a pounding, it stood up to rope work and rubbing against rough Gneiss on belay and rough bivi ledges.

Function:

Velcro cuff and front baffle worked very well to keep out cold's icy fingers as did the draw closure. Napoleon pockets useful for storage.

Ultrashell Fabric outer:

Very good wind resistance, surprisingly good abrasion resistance and good protection from rucksack strap rubbing, jacket was rasped against rough Gniess on belays and bivi ledges and shows no visible tears or signs of wear. Worn in both heavy clag and light drizzle on bivi ledge the outer beaded off moisture well and down stayed reassuringly dry.

10X Fabric inner:

Very down proof and also surprisingly silky and comfortable to the touch, a pleasure to wear. No signs of wear on the inner after 5 weeks constant use.

Hood performance and fit:

Fit very well with helmet and hugged the helmet tightly enough that I could move my head about well without impeding vision. The wearing of the hood was often just for short periods as it increased the warmth of the whole jacket dramatically, as the item jacket was used while mostly stationary this was just about right and helped regulate temperature easily. Zip attachment was actually quite useful, previously I have preferred non-detachable hoods but I'm now a convert. Tactile silky material was comfortable against the face.

Weight:

Exceptional warmth to weight ratio. No qualms about throwing this in the climbing sack on the colder climbs later in the trip with shorter days to share between climbers at belays

Overall

On the whole though an excellent jacket, fantastically rugged for the light weight, great to have tougher material on the shoulders and arms and obviously most importantly it's bloody warm! The down stays where it's supposed to, it lofts up quickly and after a 6 week expedition it still looks brand new despite rough ledge bivis and daily wear (no tear!).