

Women's Tour Master Trinity Jacket

by Kate Edwards

THE FIRST MOTORCYCLE JACKET I ever owned was a Tour Master three-quarter-length affair. Naturally, it was a men's jacket, so it did not fit very well. (In those days, women riders had two options when it came to protective riding wear—buy outerwear made for men or have something custom made.) And since abrasion-resistant fabrics were in their comparative infancy back then, the outer shell was very thick and rough (I think I actually got an abrasion burn under my chin at one point), and the jacket weighed a ton. The integrated foam armor in the back, shoulders, and elbows was quite thick and bulky, which meant that folding the jacket to stuff it into luggage was out of the question. And with styling that included stitched-on outer pockets, it had the utilitarian look of a fishing vest (which was hardly the look this image-conscious motorcycling newbie wanted). In retrospect, I must have looked at the jacket as a necessary evil that just had to be borne in order to ride safely.

Well, what a difference a decade makes. The new Women's Tour Master Trinity Jacket is light years away from that older model. Not only is it a dedicated women's jacket (which means it is roomy where it should be roomy and not roomy where it should not be so), but it is also significantly less bulky and downright pretty to look at. To steal a line from the 1970s—Tour Master, you've come a long way baby!

To begin with, the Trinity is remarkably comfortable to wear. The lusciously fine 400 Denier Nylon shell is both soft and tough, while also being waterproof and breathable. This makes the Trinity's outer shell a good jacket for late spring, through early fall riding in the more temperate climes. On colder days and in chillier climes, the addition of the Trinity's soft and silky removable taffeta liner



makes for a warmer ride that is so cozy that it feels as if you are traipsing around the countryside in armored loungewear. (It must be noted that, despite the liner, I did not find the Trinity to be substantial enough for real cold weather riding. A trip in sub-40°F temperatures, which also included the addition of an electric vest, was a bulky undertaking that left me with a warm torso but cold arms.)

Where the Trinity's armor is concerned, it has the standard removable CE-approved protection at the shoulders, elbows, and back. The back protection has the added benefit of being articulated, which means that the jacket can actually be folded up and stowed in a saddlebag. Additionally, the jacket's sleeves have adjustable straps at the forearm and upper arm, which allows the wearer to more tightly secure the elbow armor in place.

Those straps are just a few of the useful tidbits which appear in the Trinity's design. Some of the jacket's other bells and whistles include reflective sleeve piping and the signature Tour Master reflective triangle on the back to increase nighttime visibility; zippered vents in the chest, arms, and back to allow cooling air through the jacket on hot days; and adjustable waist straps for an optimum fit. And of course, as with any modern motorcycle jacket, there are lots of pockets. While the liner has a cell phone pocket and a map pocket, the outer shell has two outside hand-warmer pockets nicely integrated into the design, as well as another map pocket on the inside and a chest pocket just inside the main zipper. Actually, my only real quibble with the Trinity jacket's design concerns that chest pocket. In order to access it, the wearer has to open the main zipper, and then open the pocket's zipper. It would be so much nicer if the pocket's opening lay outside the main zipper. That way, when the wearer stops for gas or whatever, they would just have to open the outside zipper to get to that pocket instead of having to open the whole jacket to get to it.

Besides enjoying good protection and lots of pockets, the jacket boasts a

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very pleasant design. In a world where a lot of motorcycle gear looks as if it were designed by two-year olds armed with paint pots, the Tour Master Trinity Jacket's looks stand out as being very, well...*tasteful*. With its muted colors (silver/dark silver, blue/silver, or all black) and clean lines accentuated by the reflective piping, this jacket is nice enough to wear off the bike as well as on. Of course, the little red rose and the cursive "Tour Master" embroidered on the breast might elicit comments about your possible inclusion in the Tournament of Roses Parade, but hey, those folks probably do not have a jacket nice enough to be worn in any parade.

Seriously, this jacket was a very nice surprise. Light in weight (from 4.1 to 4.5 pounds, depending upon size), useful, good looking, and (with those sumptuous fabrics) very comfortable, the Tour Master Trinity jacket is a welcome addition to this lady's riding wardrobe. And that is important. After all, even on a bike, a girl's gotta have *outfits!*

The Women's Tour Master Trinity Jacket retails for \$129.99 and is available in sizes XS to XL. For more information or to find a dealer near you, visit www.tourmaster.com. **FZ**

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