

ROADGEAR



PHOTO BY MARY WILEY

■ Cortech Advanced Jacket

Hello, my name is Tom Wiley, and I used to be addicted to leather. It's true; it's true! I used to think leather was the greatest. Then, I discovered that textile-based apparel can be much more versatile, something that's very important on a long trip where packing space is critical. Several years, many miles, and more than one riding suit later, I know I've kicked the leather habit.

For a week long ride last spring, I chose Tour Master's new Cortech Advanced jacket as my riding companion. It was early March, so I knew the weatherman could throw almost anything at me. After an initial close examination, I thought to myself, "This isn't a jacket; this is a system! Someone who had done some serious riding had done some serious homework in designing this product."

The Tour Master I wore was black (although I could have chosen red or silver) and was a 3/4 length jacket (although it also comes in waist length

for all of you Flat-Bellies.) Each of the four pockets at the front are really double pockets. That makes EIGHT large pockets! Count 'em! EIGHT!! Four have Velcro closures with tabs for easy opening. The others are zippered. Two of the pockets are perfectly positioned to stuff your cold hands into. There's a cutesy little cell phone pocket inside; a bonus pocket in the full quilted and insulated liner; and a long fanny-pocket along the lower back of the jacket.

Protection should always be an important factor when choosing a jacket. The ballistic nylon material offers protection and is waterproof. Triple density armor is found at the elbows, shoulders, and down the back. I totally forgot that the armor was there. (Comfort and protection are often not compatible companions.)

Versatility also means a venting system that works in warm weather. Once chest vents are open, the top flaps Velcro out of the way. A hidden shock-cord pulls the bottom lips of the vents open even more. Open the arm vents, the rear exhaust vent running from shoulder to shoulder, blouse the cuffs more, and you are set to catch maximum air.

Wait! There's more! There's a snap to hold the neck flap out of the way if you so desire. Cinch-straps are located at the waist and arms to personalize fit. Sheepskin strips are sewn into the collar and cuffs for comfort. There's plenty of reflective piping and panels to make you glow at night.

What's not to like? I lived in this jacket for a week. It worked great in hot, cold, and wet weather. I've always thought that Tour Master offered the best bang for the buck in motorcycle apparel, and, at around \$199, the Cortech Advanced jacket proves they still do.

Available in men's and women's sizes. Be sure and visit them at www.tourmaster.com for a complete product list and to locate your local dealer.

—By Tom Wiley

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