

# Textile Jacket Buyers Guide

## 2 GERBING'S UNION RIDGE ..... \$329

Women's Sizes? No

Country of Manufacture: U.S.A., or China

It was a cool morning so I grabbed Gerbing's Union Ridge jacket, sealed the neck up under my helmet, adjusted the belt and hit the road. With its urethane-coated, 330-denier Cordura shell and Thinsulate insulation, the Union Ridge kept me surprisingly warm though I wore only a shirt underneath.

What really sets the Union Ridge apart is that it's hard-wired with heating elements to keep the rider warm in cold weather. To install just attach the wiring harness to the bike's battery posts, and plug the jacket connector into it. An on/off switch is \$12, but we recommend the optional Temp Controller (\$69-\$119) as the Gerbing's becomes too warm with just the on/off switch. In the shower it allowed in only a slight dot of wetness.

Want a jacket for cold weather? Here's the winner. It's the only jacket here with standard electric heat, and makes no pretext about being comfy within a wide range of temperatures—unless that range starts at about 60 degrees Fahrenheit and retreats from there. Our only concern is that the heated jacket keeps the warmth far from the skin. A Gerbing's (or other brand) heated jacket liner or vest brings it closer.

Gerbing's also offers matching heated pants and gloves.

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## Three-Season Jackets

## 3 CORTECH ADX ..... \$239.99

Women's Sizes? No

Country of Manufacture: China

Cortech is Tour Master's higher-end line, and this three-quarter, three- or four-season jacket is made of a finer 600-denier DuPont Cordura. The shell includes a waterproof, breathable Comformax barrier and reflective piping.

The ADX's relatively stiff back protector is immediately noticeable, but largely forgotten once the rider is bent over the bars. It includes CE-approved armor in the elbows and shoulders. An adjustable belt, along with take-up straps on the chest and sleeves, assures a custom fit. In cooler weather the neck, main zipper and sleeves seal very well and the whole jacket is very secure but for the shoulder and chest scoops; the Comformax barrier blocked them well. In our shower test it did not leak—not even through the suspect scoops.

When it's hot, zip out the full-sleeve liner, roll and stow it in the rear pouch. The zip-open, fine-mesh vents on the sleeves are quite effective, but the chest vents close again when the rider leans forward. The rear vent is quite small and ineffective, but with the liner removed much of the exposed interior (except for the back pad) is mesh.

The ADX is a very light jacket, yet warm, because it seals well and offers very good versatility. Its strength is relative warmth with minimal weight.



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[www.tourmaster.com](http://www.tourmaster.com)