

Conspicuity See Me reflective vest

by Moshe Levy #108259

OF ALL THE PRODUCTS I'VE USED since I started riding in 1997, only one has been with me from the beginning: my Conspicuity reflective vest. I've had it on every commute and major trip of my riding career, through harsh environments, torrential storms, Ironbutt rides, blistering heat, freezing cold, and everything in between. I'll never truly know how many times it's saved my bacon by getting me noticed, but I've come to regard it as an indispensable part of my riding gear which I never leave home.

In standard trim, this American-made vest is made of a heavy black mesh material with 2 inch Reflexite vinyl stripes running vertically up the front, over the shoulder, and down the back, for a total of 192 square inches of reflective surface. The over the shoulder reflectivity is vital for riders with large top cases, since the shoulder may be the only visible part of the rider from the rear perspective.

The vest fits over any jacket, from lightweight summer mesh to bulky winter gear, as shown here, with four sturdy adjustment straps to ensure a snug fit and no flapping at speed. The standard model fits 28-52" chest sizes, with XL sizes available. The front zipper is a heavy-duty YKK unit, and overall weight is only 14 ounces.

Conspicuity offers a myriad of color options in both fluorescent and retro-reflective finishes. Fluorescent colors "pop" in the landscape and grab visual attention, especially in low visibility conditions like

rain or fog. By contrast, a retro-reflective finish reflects almost all of the light striking it (from oncoming headlights, for example) directly back toward the light source in a



Conspicuity See Me Vest worn on BMW Streetguard 3 Jacket

very narrow cone. In plain English, fluorescence is useful for enhancing daytime conspicuity, while retro-reflectivity is excellent for increasing nighttime conspicuity.

Riders who want both fluorescent and retro-reflective finishes can pick from yellow as shown, orange, green, or pink stripe tints, while riders who want only fluorescent can pick from white, red, blue, or silver hues.

Where these vests shine is in outright durability and ease of use. The black mesh and vinyl stripes are extremely easy to clean, unlike the fabric hi-viz vests which quickly become dotted with dead bugs and permanently stained from road debris. The mesh also flows much more air than the fabric vests do, which is essential for summer riding comfort. With a little soap and water 1-2 times per season, my original vest is now over 15 years and 150,000 miles old and still looks and feels like new; nothing else in my gear collection has held up even half as long.

As we learned all too well from the landmark Hurt study published in 1981, "the failure of motorists to detect and recognize motorcycles in traffic is the predominating cause of motorcycle accidents." The problem has only intensified since 1981 due to multiplying driver distractions, all of which make it that much harder for us to differentiate ourselves as approaching motorcyclists. Anecdotally then, motorcyclists should use whatever legal means necessary to safely and effectively

increase their conspicuity amongst the ever more oblivious surrounding traffic, and then proceed to ride as though they are completely invisible.

MSRP \$54.00 Regular (Size XL \$62)

For more information, visit conspicuity.us/index.html or call 877-411-8551. ☺