

Warm & Safe Ultimate Touring II Heated Gloves



Reviewed by Moshe Levy



TAKING ADVANTAGE OF winter weather, we've been testing Warm & Safe's new Ultimate Touring II heated gloves to determine if they deliver on the promise of toasty hands in freezing temps. At first glance, the styling is rather busy, but attractive. Functionally, the protective quality of the black drum-dyed cowhide is enhanced by additional padding on the fingers, a molded carbon fiber knuckle protector, a healthy dose of reflective piping, and tightly-seamed white stitching. Some grippy reinforcement fabric is sewn into the palm area for added control and safety, and the fingers are precurved, with stitching on the outside—unusual for heated gloves. A hook and loop strap keeps the gloves tightly secured at the wrist, while another stretch-strap at the gauntlet clamps down against the jacket's cuff.

The gauntlet itself opens to a generous 4.5" and can be stretched to 5", more than enough space for most hands. Beneath the surface, an "Aqrotex" windproof/waterproof membrane is sandwiched between the outer leather and the soft microfleece-like inner lining, supplemented with 3M Thinsulate insulation. The left glove has a fairly effective rubber face shield wiper which was useful in rain and light snow conditions. Overall construction quality of these \$149.95 Pakistani-made gloves is very good, with no loose threads, blemishes, or defects.

Electrical power for the glove is via a 4" female coax, which can be plugged directly into the sleeve-mounted male power coax cord of most heated jacket liners, or run separately if no

liner is used. Depending on the heat controller used, the gloves' heat can be adjusted separately or in conjunction with the main liner. We still recommend the Warm & Safe Dual Remote Heat Troller, as reviewed in February 2011, as a good choice for separate glove/liner control. Rated at 15W each, they consume 30W in total power.

On the road, the gloves immediately feel "broken in," thanks to their pre-curved fingers and soft leather. They reached peak temperatures in roughly four minutes, in line with the last pack of heated gloves we last tested

in April 2010. Once warmed up, all the usual advantages of heated gear are realized, which, in the case of gloves, means vastly increased control feel. The bulky, overstuffed "not yet cold" feeling of traditionally insulated winter gloves is replaced with a much thinner, much lighter glove that truly warms your hands in any temperature a sane motorcyclist would dare venture into. Likewise, their waterproof claim was verified in some torrential downpours that lasted for hours, without a drop leaking inside. Based on their performance during our testing, these gloves represent a solid functional choice for the cold-weather rider who isn't afraid to take on Old Man Winter!

A final note: Sizing runs a little large; I normally wear XL and here, size L was slightly too big while M was too small.

Warm & Safe—www.warmnsafe.com

Warm & Safe WindBlock Heated Pants Liner



Reviewed by Moshe Levy

NORMALLY, IN THESE parts, a heated jacket liner and heated gloves are all one needs to ride all winter long, but this year's brutal "arctic blasts" conspired to keep any unprepared motorcyclist parked for the season.

If one is to ride in conditions like this, with continuous wind gusts well below freezing even during the warmest part of the day, a heated pants liner is a valuable accessory. As its name implies, Warm & Safe's new "Generation Windblock" heated pants liner satisfies the dual purposes of blocking incoming cold air and actively warming up the rider's thighs, knees, and upper trunk area with its integrated heating panels. The exterior shell is a Polyester/Spandex blend that's extremely stretchable so as not to impede movement, while the form-fit allows the heating panels to transfer heat more quickly. Also, the interior's polyester lining is treated with an anti-bacterial agent to prevent odors over time. The elastic waistband is held tight by a small Velcro

strap with a zippered fly, and the garment fits as comfortably as a second skin.

At maximum heat, this liner draws approximately 45W, which is roughly half as much as a traditional heated jacket liner. There are a multitude of power connection options, either directly to the motorcycle or via the accessory plug on the jacket liner (if used in conjunction with one), plus all of the usual control options: none, on/off switch, single controller, dual controller, etc. Integrated coaxial heated sock plugs are also included with the pants liner, with zippered pockets in the calf area to stow away when not in use. The ultimate setup for adjustability and warmth is a heated jacket liner



and heated gloves on one dual-controller, with the heated pants liner and heated socks on another dual controller, allowing full body coverage and independent control of all four garments. With all of them blazing away, it felt possible to ride through Antarctica in the dead of winter and still feel toasty.

Notably, the windblocking properties of the liner's outer shell extend its versatility beyond winter-only use. Wearing them underneath uninsulated riding pants during a brisk spring or fall jaunt improved comfort in temperatures not quite cold enough for heated gear. A storage pouch

for the liner is also included for convenience during warmer months when not in use.

Overall, this underlayer is an excellent choice for those year-round riders who refuse to let a little "arctic blast" get in the way of a good ride! MSRP \$214.95

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