

●● Product Reviews

Dainese D-Crust Plus Rain Gear ●●●○○

HERE IN NEW Jersey, Mother Nature was very cooperative in providing ideal test conditions for the Dainese D-Crust Plus suit this spring. I ventured out into the biblical floods to determine its functionality, and the final verdict is mixed.

The jacket's construction is of lightweight, coated nylon with tight stitching and thermowelded seams. The collar is tall to effectively guard against dripping rain, and has dual plastic snaps to open and close. A single GRT main zipper is sealed off by a Velcro-actuated water block. Drawstrings allow adjustment of the collar and jacket bottom, while Velcro straps provide adjustment on the bicep and waist areas. Generous swaths of reflective material are incorporated over the length of the sleeves, the waist adjustment straps, and the "demon head" Dainese logo on the jacket's back. Inside, a slip liner offers separation between the nylon shell and the rider, while a wallet-sized waterproof Napoleon pocket on the left breast serves as the suit's lone storage space. The pants are the same coated nylon shell exterior with slip liner material inside. An elastic waist ensures a universal fit, and the ankle areas have reflective piping to match the jacket's.

In the rain, both the jacket and pants were completely waterproof. Not a drop leaked inside all season long, despite many hours in torrential showers. The suit's overall breathability was admirable, as well, and the hi-viz yellow color stood out distinctly.

Not all was rosy. This suit has a very trim-fitting European cut, and sizing runs very small. I had no problem slipping a



MOSHE LEVY

Both jacket and pants of the Dainese D-Crust Plus tested as completely waterproof.

large-sized jacket over lightweight, form-fitting summer riding gear, but it was a tight squeeze getting it over bulkier armored gear. Also, the pants are very difficult to climb into and out of with boots on. There are two sets of zippers running down the outside of each pant leg—one that's waist to knee, and another that's cuff to knee—and the pant legs never open widely enough to quickly step into.

With the slip liner inside, which constantly snagged on my wet, size-10 boot heels, it could be a real challenge to don the pants by the side of the road. Finally, at this price point, I would have liked to see a hood on the jacket, too.

Overall, the Dainese D-Crust Plus is very effective rain gear tailored to those who value the lean European cut aesthetic over the more practical concerns of rapidly fitting it over typical armored riding gear. The Chinese-made suit is available in black or hi-viz yellow. Jacket and pants MSRP is \$99.95 each.

—Moshe Levy

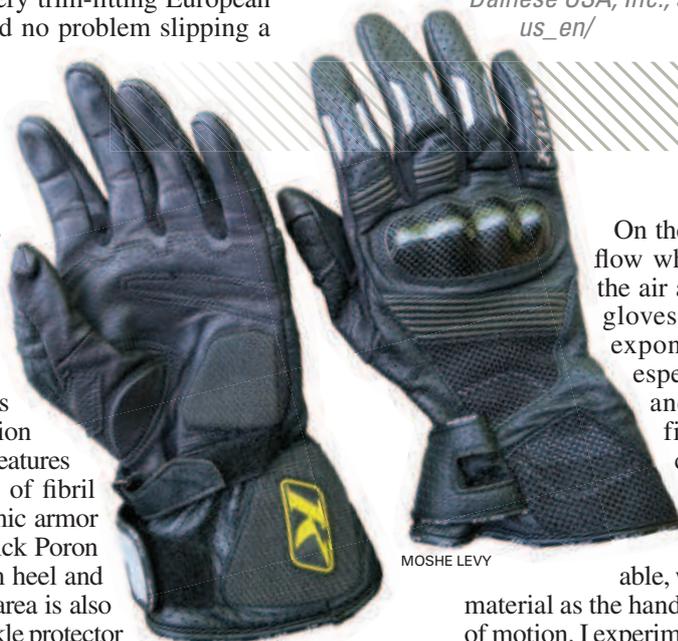
Dainese USA, Inc., 949-645-9500, dainese.com/us_en/

Klim Induction Gloves ●●●●○

SUMMER IS WHEN motorcyclists yearn for the perfect combination of protection and breathability in their gear, and the mid-weight Klim Induction gloves come close.

They feature premium materials designed to provide serious fortification against the unexpected. The palm area features Pittards Armortan leather, comprised of fibril bundles encased by microscopic ceramic armor plates for high abrasion resistance. Thick Poron XRD padding is stitched into the palm heel and outer gauntlet, while the lower thumb area is also heavily buttressed. A carbon-fiber knuckle protector dominates the dorsal side. Everything else is designed to maximize airflow; 1000-denier mesh panels overlay a moisture-wicking membrane over the wrist, which leads to a stretch panel, followed by perforated leather for the fingers. The "micro-fine" mesh at the finger bases offers astounding circulation, even if the hands are in a naturally closed position. The gauntlet and wrist strap are leather, and both fasten securely via Velcro.

The stitching is true and doubled up in all the right places, although I would have liked more reinforcement along the outside edge of the hand. Scotchlite reflective panels on the index, middle, and wedding ring fingers, as well as the gauntlet, are a functional finishing touch for night riders. Likewise, wet weather riders will appreciate the left index finger's integrated squeegee.



MOSHE LEVY

Klim Induction gloves offer ample protection and great breathability.

On the road, the Induction gloves flow what feels like 90 percent of the air as very lightweight summer gloves, while offering the rider exponentially greater security, especially with the wrist strap and gauntlet holding things firmly in place. The pre-curved fingers and generous stretch panels equal minimal break-in time, and the tactile feel is quite comfortable,

with no hot spots or bunching material as the hands travel through their ranges of motion. I experimented with iPhone capacitive touch screen operation and found periodic success, as long as the finger pad touching the screen was through leather and not a seam.

The gloves themselves have held up admirably as the miles racked up. The leather's deep-black color did not bleach from the sun, and the materials used throughout seem to wear like iron. However, be aware that the sizing runs very small compared to other brands. I am normally comfortable in a size 9.5/Large, but the Induction in Klim's size L was very tight-fitting. So do try before you buy. The Chinese-made Induction gloves have an MSRP of \$159.99 and are available in black or white finish.

—Moshe Levy

Klim USA, 208-552-7433, klim.com