



Aerostich Protekt riding jeans

By Moshe Levy #108259

AEROSTICH'S PROTEKT RIDING Jeans look to all the world like a regular pair of blue jeans, but they provide the rider with added abrasion resistance and impact protection in all the right places.

The exterior shell is made entirely of 14-oz. denim made from unwashed 100 percent cotton, strategically double or triple stitched in the usual impact areas. Aerostich's optional 10" x 6" rectangular-shaped TF3 Armor pads slide into hidden pockets at the knees and can be pulled out or reinstalled within seconds as necessary. Abrasion resistance is provided internally via 500 denier Cordura layers at the knee and seat areas, followed by another lightweight cotton layer facing the rider's skin as a buffer.


Utility is about what you'd expect from standard blue jeans: five deep pockets, five belt loops, and a metal fly zipper. Fitment is very similar to Levi's 501s, and just like regular jeans, the Protekt jeans shrunk a little after a few wash cycles.

These jeans are ideal for urbanites or those riders who want a balance between full protective riding gear and the bare minimum of safety offered by standard civilian clothing. They're also designed to allow riders the ability to quickly transform from armored to unarmored in short order. The Protekt jeans became as comfortable as my favorite casual jeans after a week of commuting and two wash cycles, and fitment was perfect, though all the thick 14 oz. denim plus the extra layers of Cordura and cotton fabric creates a heavier feel than traditional blue jeans, so wearing a belt is advisable. Over my summer/

fall test regimen, I found the TF3 knee pads flexible enough that I never pulled them out, even while walking around off the bike. (Though admittedly I like the "motorcyclist look" wherever I go!) When removed, the knee pads are small enough to stuff into a tank bag or saddlebag. The boot-cut legs had more than enough room to cover my Sidi ADV style boots without looking like bell-bottoms.

I do wish Aerostich offered hip pads,

which are currently unavailable. Otherwise, these jeans are great for those riders who want this look and are comfortable wearing this level of protection.

Aerostich Protekt Riding Jeans are available in sizes 32-30 through 42-32, in blue or black. The MSRP for these American-made jeans is \$117, and the optional TF3 pads are \$30 additional. For more information, visit Aerostich.com. 



Blue Aerostich Protekt Jeans with TF3 armor pads installed.



Blue Aerostich Protekt Jeans with TF3 armor pads removed. (All photos by Moshe K. Levy)