



## » Motoport RACING GLOVES

Motoport's Racing Gloves eschew traditional leather in favor of fiber/dynatec/lycra stretch paneling with Dupont Kevlar swatches safety-stitched over the fingers and palm areas. A vented TPU knuckle protector over dense EVA closed cell foam provides additional fortification on the dorsal side, while a velcro-actuated wrist cincher and gauntlet strap help keep the gloves secured while in use. The overall appearance is Spartan, though the rough Kevlar swatches, which resemble a pumice stone in texture, add a distinctive accent to the styling.

On the road, the Racing Gloves have some unique attributes owing to the exotic material blends. There is literally zero break-in time required, since the materials are thin and the fingers arrive pre-curved. These gloves are extremely lightweight, and despite the uniform black coloring, do not seem to absorb heat like traditional leather gloves do when left in the sun. They also breathe fairly well for all-purpose gloves, but are not as free-flowing at speed as dedicated perforated summer gloves such as the Klim Induction models we recently tested (MCN, August 2016). Ultimately, Motoport's Chinese-made Racing Gloves are good general purpose riding gear, but with an MSRP of \$169.00, some of the expected bells and whistles are conspicuously absent.

—Moshe Levy

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## » BMW MOTORRAD CITY 2 RIDING PANTS

Current below-the-belt riding gear includes a broad spectrum of nuanced options, from lightly fortified jeans to fully armored leather or ballistic textile pants. BMW's City 2 trousers slot nicely in the middle of this range. Constructed of a sturdy cotton/Cordura blend, they feel more substantial than jeans, but not as stiff and bulky as most synthetic gear. This fabric is slightly water-repellent and allows no real airflow. Fully mesh-lined, and assembled with numerous panels and articulated knees, they're comfortable both on and off the bike, and their understated styling draws no attention at destinations.

BMW's CE-rated visco-elastic NP armor graces the City 2's hips and knees. The latter get large, distinctive left and right moldings for extended coverage of the joints' outboard sides. This ventilated armor is soft enough to conform to body contours, but stiffens upon impact to deliver protection. Each piece fits securely in a pocket in the lining, and the knee pads can be located at several heights over a three-inch range to accommodate different leg dimensions. Deep, zippered front and thigh compartments provide ample storage; there are no rear hip pockets. The lower leg sections feature long, zippered gussets with Velcro tabs for easy boot entry, and there's yet another zipper along the raised rear waistband for attaching BMW Motorrad jackets. A conventional zippered fly and sturdy waistband hook are augmented by a somewhat cheesy—and easily replaceable—nylon belt that's at least highly adjustable.

Aside from that belt, attention to detail is worthy of the premium marque, from the tastefully subtle brand cues to the extensive use of reinforced seams and the solid (non-mesh) lining panels inside the leg bottoms that smooth boot ingress and may minimize wicking of splashed water. The City 2 pants come in two colors. We chose the dark-gray-with-a-slightly-greenish-cast version, called "anthracite," but a blue denim-look model is also available. Sizing is true, though you'll probably find the larger option a better fit if you tend to straddle two sizes.

Although marketed as summer pants, the absence of ventilation makes these warmer than mesh gear on hot days. But this means they're viable in spring and fall for much of the continent, when mesh would be too chilly. They're also versatile style-wise, and don't look out of place or feel clumsy at restaurants or other settings where dedicated riding gear can be cumbersome. Sure, Kevlar-backed jeans have the same advantage, and occasionally even include a little knee armor. But the City 2 pants, with their thoughtful pockets, ergonomic design and more elaborate protection, deliver much greater functionality, without catching eyes (except those of other riders who recognize high-grade kit).

We love these pants. As you'd guess, BMW gear is pricey, but the features, build quality, protection and comfort of the City 2s justify their MSRP of \$269.99—we saw them for considerably less on eBay.

—Mark Barnes

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