

REVIEWS

» Brosh **OPTIMAL JACKET & CARGO PANTS**

Brosh recently started exporting its motorcycle riding gear from the company's native Israel to America. The gear is designed for riders who desire protection in the hottest of climates, and is in use by Israeli Police and first responders (pg. 30) during the scorching summer months in the Middle Eastern desert. I was excited to try it out on my much milder NJ to PA daily commute.

The Optimal jacket is primarily constructed of polyester and Dry Fit, a lightweight, moisture-wicking fabric designed to maximize breathability. A Kevlar layer then reinforces the Dry Fit fabric along the sleeves and side of the jacket, to provide protection against abrasion and tearing.

There are CE-rated armor pads in the shoulders, elbows and (optionally) in the back-protector pocket. There are two hand pockets in front for storage, and adjustment straps with plastic buckles at the waist and elbows for fine tuning fitment. This jacket is available in black, gray, red or yellow.

Likewise, the Cargo Riding Pants use the same basic design of lightweight, breathable Dry Fit fabric with a healthy amount of Kevlar reinforcement, in this case from the waist all the way down to the upper ankles. The pants feature contemporary styling, with two front pockets,

two cargo pockets on the thighs and two more on the rear, along with hook and loop adjustment straps above the knees, where optional 9-inch-long CE-rated armor pads reside within dedicated pockets. These pants are available in black, gray or olive green.

On the road, the first thing noticed is a ton of airflow. This is very light gear, and it is seriously breathable. The Dry Fit fabric did an admirable job of wicking sweat away, especially the jacket. In fact, sweat hardly has a chance to build up once at speed, because of the airflow.

The jacket pockets provide barely adequate storage and an inner pocket for vehicle paperwork and a wallet or cellphone would be a welcome addition. The pant pockets are cavernous, by comparison.

Quality of construction is excellent for this price point, though it isn't comparable to a \$1,000 suit for crashworthiness or longevity. Nevertheless, after over 4,000 miles of commuting, the stitching, zippers, buttons and straps all held up perfectly, making the Brosh gear a fine choice for basic, affordable, lightweight protective gear on those scalding summer rides. Jacket \$169; Pants \$72.

—Moshe K. Levy



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» Scorpion **EXO SG3 MKII GLOVES**

Scorpion's EXO SG3 MKII gloves provide bona fide track-level protection at an affordable price point. The aggressively styled exterior shell is constructed of goatskin leather, with thermoplastic polyurethane for added protection on the wrist gauntlet and fingers, and knuckles are reinforced with carbon fiber. Knox Scaphoid Protection System armor plates are strategically located on the heel of the palm

where impact is most likely. Knox plates are specifically designed to slide across the pavement, reducing the risk of wrist torsion in the event of a crash.

An additional patch of leather fortifies the outside of the pinky finger, while a grippy "digitally embossed" material lines the palm area, for optimal control.

The full-length gauntlet is double-cuffed, with large swaths of hook and loop fabric creating a snug and

secure fitment. A looped fastening strap cinches the gloves tight around the wrist. The gauntlet opening itself only opens to a 3.5-inch diameter on a size Large glove, so they aren't easy to slip over bulkier jacket cuffs.

On the road, the SG3 MKII initially felt stiff, despite the curved fingers and palms. It took a solid week of commuting for the gloves to break in, but eventually they molded to my hand shape and became quite comfortable. The polyester internal liner was reasonably soft

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