

# REVIEWS

## » Olympia X-MOTO 2 TOURING SUIT

Olympia's X-Moto 2 is an all-season, three-layer adventure touring suit designed for any riding environment.

The outer layer is constructed of 500D Cordura, with 2000D reinforcements in high impact areas across the shoulders, elbows, knees, and rear. The venting consists of multiple retractable inlets, allowing copious airflow to cool the chest, back, arms, and legs.

The second layer is a hi-viz AquaRes waterproof two-piece rain suit that can be worn over or under the outer shell. The third layer is a full-length jacket with Thermolite insulation. Each layer can be worn by itself or in any combination with the others, making the X-Moto 2 quite versatile!

Removable Motion Flex CE armor is included in shoulders, elbows and knees, along with an articulated back protector and compression foam hips. There's strategically located Scotchlite reflective piping for added conspicuity, and the primary zippers are tethered for gloves hands. A zip-off backpack with integrated 2-liter water bladder is also included.

During a solid year of commuting in weather from below freezing to the heat of summer, the X-Moto 2 proved its mettle. The biggest positives were the versatility and comfort in all conditions. The AquaRes layer effectively blocked wind chill, down to 38 degrees before I reached for a heated liner.

The "Mega Vent" system worked in concert with the jacket's mesh lining, allowing an effective amount of circulation in summer. Wet performance was also excellent. The outer layer stopped short showers and the AquaRes handled any deluge.

Adjustment straps at the collar, cuffs, elbows and waist assure a snug fit. Plentiful storage exists in 10 oversized pockets, and the useful backpack. The included Motion Flex armor was stiff and unyielding, especially below 40 degrees.

The X-Moto 2 suit represents a very compelling value proposition for its excellent versatility, durability, and practicality. Jacket \$479.99; Pants \$349.99

—Moshe K. Levy



## PRODUCT COMPARISON: DUAL SPORT SADDLEBAGS

Far from civilization, where dual-sport and off-road riders wander, one must carry tools, parts, clothing and food for any eventuality. Without an ADV bike's cases, this usually means toting a heavy, overstuffed backpack, which reduces rider comfort, endurance and ease of movement.

Tail packs relieve some burden, but can make a bike top-heavy and harder to mount and dismount. Tank bags are difficult or impossible to secure on the short, steep faces of dirt-worthy fuel cells.

These small saddlebags offer a welcome solution to these problems, allowing stowage of considerable gear low and close, without impeding rider mobility.

Gutter hooks secure the rear of these bags to the fender's edges, while loops tie their leading corners to a frame or sub-frame rail. Weight is supported by wider straps that pass over the rear of the seat and bodywork.

Depending on bag position and the protection provided by side covers, a heat shield may be required to prevent bag damage from contact with hot exhaust parts. Straps may also require extra care or additional brackets (available from Giant Loop) to avoid heat that could melt their nylon webbing.

Both manufacturers sell heat shields separately, but Giant Loop includes one with this bag. During off-road jostling, any bags or straps will scuff plastic, paint and decals. Giant Loop also sells thick clear vinyl appliques to keep bodywork safe from such wear, but generic alternatives are cheaper and likely sufficient. Neither is truly waterproof, but both are highly water-resistant, with Giant Loop edging out Wolfman in extreme conditions. Both are made in the U.S. Which one is better depends on bike geometry, cargo and personal preference.

For example, the bike shown has built-in hand-holds near the rear of the seat that remained accessible only with the Wolfman bags. It also allowed looping the right-side forward straps around the shock's remote reservoir, far from exhaust parts, and its side covers were shaped such that no heat shield was needed.

The Wolfman top straps have a wide range of adjustability, while the GL yoke's dimensions are fixed—fine for a typically narrow dirt-bike tail section, but potentially awkward on other machines, like ADV or even street bikes.

We prefer the Wolfman bags for their versatility and seemingly more rugged bag material, but if your fender edges suit the Giant Loop bags' yoke and you prefer an elongated shape, they'd be a better choice.

—Mark Barnes



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