

REVIEWS

The key to California Heat's Heated Balaclava is the onboard Spark 3000 li-ion battery, powering heating elements in the full-coverage garment.



» California Heat HEATED BALACLAVA

California Heat's Heated Balaclava uses an onboard Spark 3000 li-ion battery to power heating elements located in the ear region. A 2.75-inch tall, by 1.75-inch wide and 0.75-inch deep integrated pouch on the rear of the balaclava holds the 7.4 volt, 3,500mAh battery securely in place.

This full-coverage garment is made from a four-way stretch, 95 percent polyester and 5 percent spandex blend. The design allows an easy switch from full-face mask to an open-face configuration.

The battery features a four-LED display, which is used to determine both heating level and state of charge. When connected to the balaclava's input power wire, pressing the power button on the battery toggles between 25, 50, 75 and 100 percent power modes. Maximum heat is 135 F, and

the battery lasted 5.1 hours at 100 percent power. At 25-percent power, it lasted 12.5 hours. Disconnect the battery before pressing the power button and the four LEDs display remaining state of charge, in the same quartered increments.

A 120VAC to 1A, 8.4VDC wall charger is included, but a DC to DC charger is not. A DC charger would allow charging the balaclava's battery directly from a motorcycle's 12VDC output source. We're disappointed it was not included.

On the road, the Heated Balaclava performed extremely well. The seams

were never bothersome in any full-face helmet tested. Switching from full coverage to open face took mere seconds. Heating wires were completely unobtrusive.

The garment warmed up very quickly and retained the warmth admirably. The active heat provided on the ears was more than enough to handle anything Old Man Winter delivered this year. Highly recommended for cold-weather riders. \$90

—Moshe K. Levy

California Heat
california-heat.com

