

Dianese Carroarmato boots

By Moshe K. Levy #108259

DIANESE'S CARROARMATO BOOTS are a mid-priced line for the adventure-touring rider, and they performed well over four months of rigorous, on-road commuting duty. They're a hybrid design, beefier than a dedicated street-only boot like BMW's All-round, but not as bulky or rugged as the off-road Sidi Adventure Gore-Tex we tested in the June 2014 issue of *Owner's News*. As such, they may be the ideal footwear for those riders who tour primarily on the street and also occasionally venture into the dirt. "Carroarmato" means "tank" in Italian, and while that might be a slight exaggeration for these boots' intended mission, they are certainly stout.

The reserved but stylish exterior of the boot is comprised of thick cowhide leather on the upper, with split-grain leather on the sides. A tinted, reflective patch above the heel aids nighttime conspicuity. There is a healthy amount of nylon reinforcement around the ankle, heel, and toe box areas, and the shin area has a robust thermoplastic polyurethane (TPU) insert for additional protection. The non-slip Skywalk sole and two nylon buckles are equally sturdy and adequate for light off-roading.

The good news continues inside, where a full Gore-Tex® liner provides a completely waterproof yet breathable environment for your feet to reside in. Fitment runs true to size, and adjustment is provided via the aforementioned pair of nylon cam-lock

preferred some aluminum buckles, but the nylon units never let me down during testing.

The Carroarmatos are initially stiff, and it took a solid two weeks of daily riding to break them in, but eventually they softened

up nicely and are now equally comfortable on the road or just hiking around. I had a chance to test in temperatures between 16 and 93 degrees, and though, like any lined boot, they can get warm to wear on the hottest summer days, things never got uncomfortable. They provided excellent protection from the elements during the inevitable downpours of the east coast spring season. Not a drop leaked inside on any ride, and yes, they passed the bathtub test with flying colors. As the miles racked up, the leather wore like iron, with minimal scuffing and discoloration. Likewise, the TPU shift lever protector still looks like new after almost 10,000 miles of use.

Overall, I came away impressed with these Dianese boots. Their appeal lies in their utility – not quite suitable for extreme ADV off-roading, not nearly as Spartan as a pure street boot, but Goldi-



buckles, as well as a huge swath of Velcro® at the top closure point of the boot. The adjustment straps for the buckles are easy to actuate, although one must be careful when removing the boots so as not to inadvertently knock their adjustment point out of place. At this price point, I would have

locks for those motorcyclists who dabble in both genres with an emphasis toward on-road riding. They're certified to the EN13634:2010 Standard, an EU benchmark for protection and ergonomics, among other things. The Carroarmatos are made in Romania and carry an MSRP of \$389.95. ☺