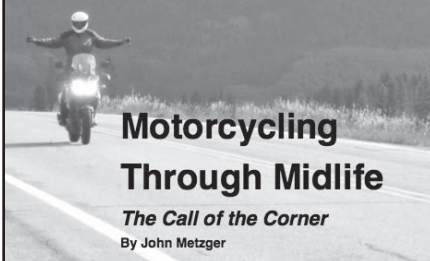


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PRODUCTREVIEWS

Sidi Adventure Gore-Tex Boots

Moshe K. Levy #108259

IN ALL MY YEARS OF RIDING AND reviewing products, nothing has been as durable as my first set of Sidi Onroad Sympatex boots. If only every article of gear I owned were so incredibly robust in construction! Despite years of riding through icy winters, blistering heat, torrential downpours, and everything else the commuting motorcyclist combats, these boots always performed flawlessly. Better still, they were comfortable enough to wear not just for riding the bike, but for working outdoors, hiking in unforgiving terrain, snowmobiling, or whatever else called for warm and 100% waterproof footwear.

Alas, after well over 100,000 miles of use, the Sidis finally had to be retired – they were getting kind of funky after all those hours. And despite experimenting with many other brands over the years, no boots I have ever donned came close to matching the Sidis in terms of overall comfort and durability.

So, it is with this positive experience that I tested Sidi's newest top of the line model, the "Adventure Gore Tex," a boot which merges many features from the touring and off-road genres into one product. As the name implies, the innards consist of a

breathable and waterproof genuine Gore Tex membrane sandwiched over a Cambrelle lining. Outer construction is top grain leather, complete with a rugged, user replaceable dual cam-lock buckle system and memory retention straps on the foot and ankle area. The calf-level adjustment is a standard but effective hook and loop system, while the front shin section boasts a thick formed plastic armor plate for total protection. As



you would expect of a top line Sidi boot, the build quality is superlative and in this case, very aesthetically appealing in a Mad-Max kind of way.

I tested these boots over 5 months of commuting, as well as hiking and snowmobiling, and have no doubt they will last at least as long as my prized Onroad Sympatex boots did, if not longer. The cam-lock buckles allow generous adjustment, and the overall fit is extremely comfortable, if somewhat bulkier than a strictly on-road type touring boot. They provided excellent insulation in colder riding, and weren't overly uncomfortable in hot temps either. Naturally, they are absolutely waterproof, easily passing my "bathtub test" where I leave them standing submerged in a bathtub full of water for a full 24 hours -not a single drop had entered in either the bathtub test, or in extensive real-life rain testing.

Initially, I felt that the ADV Gore Tex was actually somewhat overkill for the on-road commuter, but I quickly grew to appreciate the extra fortification and the tall design, which completely protected my shins from flying highway debris on many occasions. It is truly versatile gear which can indeed pass muster as a dedicated ADV boot, in addition to on-road duties. About the only compliant I had was a loud squeaking sound emanating from the boots as I walked, a very common compliant which, in the grand scheme of things, is nit-picking. Otherwise, this is A+ kit!

The ADV Gore Tex boots are available in black only, sizes 49-48 Euro, and retail for \$550.00. For more information, visit sidisport.com. ☺



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