

## » Scorpion SEATTLE OVERPANTS

Scorpion's Seattle overpants offer waterproof, all-season capabilities at a very compelling price point. The contemporarily styled exterior shell is made of 600D polyester, with 1680D nylon in the knee areas for added abrasion resistance. Full length double-ended YKK urethane-coated zippers with branded fabric pulls run from the lower hips down to the leg bottoms, making climbing in and out of the pants easy, even with bulky boots on.

These pants are a neutral cut, with accordion stretch paneling by the knees, plenty of room underneath for street gear, and large velcro adjustment tabs on the waist to fine tune fitment.

The interior's polyester mesh lining is soft and comfortable against bare skin. The knees feature SAS-TEC CE-rated armor in vertically adjustable pockets, while the hips are protected by PE

foam armor. An 8-inch zipper allows interconnection with a jacket.

The Seattle pants themselves are fine for three-season use in colder climates without the use of the included Ever-Heat liner. Below 45 degrees, this quilted polyester thermal liner extends the Seattle's functionality to below freezing. It installs in minutes, with a zipper at the waist and convenient color-coded snaps at the cuffs. A full-length zipper allows easy entrance and exits, and when not in use, the Ever-Heat liner folds up small, for easy portability on the bike.

Out on the road, the Seattle pants impressed with a winning combination of functionality and value. I commuted in them for eight months, during which time nary a drop leaked inside. They are sized with just enough room in the legs to be worn as overpants on top of the usual civilian gear, or dedicated motorcycling pants by themselves. The grip panels in the seat area prevented sliding around the motorcycle's saddle, which was a nice added touch.



Breathability was excellent, durability superb, with no visible wear or fraying anywhere. Overall, with an MSRP starting at only \$229.95, Scorpion's Seattle pants are an exceptional value for the year-round rider.

—Moshe K. Levy

ScorpionExo  
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## » BMW DOWNTOWN JACKET

BMW's Downtown jacket is primarily intended for urbanites and commuters who desire a subdued, conservative aesthetic in their riding gear. The abrasion resistant polyester exterior shell is completely finished in a very dark Anthracite matte, with only a thin sliver of reflective striping and subtle "BMW Motorrad" lettering on each bicep.

Otherwise, it looks to the outside world as though the rider is wearing a quality half-length parka, with two waterproof handwarmer pockets on the outer shell for moderate storage. Directly beneath the outer shell lives a windproof, waterproof, and breathable "BMW Climate Membrane" to keep the elements at bay.

BMW's CE-approved EN 1621-1:2012 certified NPL armor is standard equip-

ment for the shoulders and elbows, and a matching 16" high x 10.5" wide NPL back pad is optional. In my experience, this armor is among the most comfortable in the industry. It offers very good flexibility in the cold, and is perforated for breathability in warmer temperatures. The pads quickly conform to the body's shape, with little shifting once underway.

The Downtown's European cut fitment is straightforward, with press studs on the sleeve cuffs and a waist-cincher running across the lower back, where a 40cm zipper allows riding pants to be attached if so desired. The collar's mandarin-style snap strap is removable, for an even cleaner appearance.

My testing regimen consisted of daily commuting over New Jersey's fall, winter, and spring, and here the Downtown excelled.

BMW's Vietnamese-made Downtown is available for men (Anthracite) in U.S.



sizes 36-50 and for women (gray) in U.S. sizes 4-18, with an MSRP of \$549.00.

—Moshe K. Levy

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