

EVALUATIONS

GEAR + TECH + TOOLS + FARKLES + MEDIA

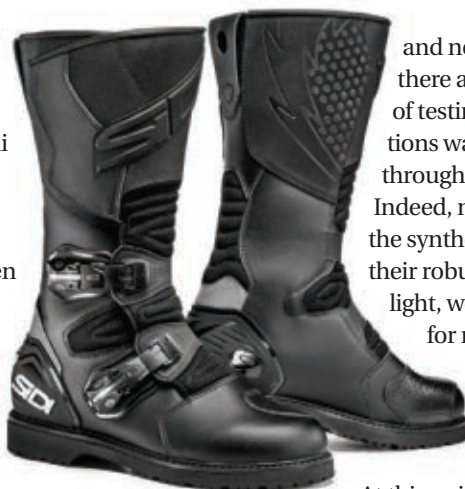
» Sidi DEEP RAIN BOOTS

With new leather / Gore-Tex boots now routinely commanding more than \$500 per pair, Sidi has combined the characteristics of its top-shelf touring and adventure boots (and deleted some of their more expensive materials) to create the new Deep Rain models, bridging the gap between the features serious riders expect and a more affordable price point.

Let's start with what's not here: Leather and Gore-Tex. Instead, Sidi has substituted synthetic leather called "Technomico" for the exterior shell's base material, while the interior uses a breathable "Trockenfuss" liner. Besides these material swaps, the Deep Rain boots boast a host of notable features suitable for both on-road riding and moderate off-roading as well.

The exterior's styling smartly balances the promise of rugged durability with contemporary aesthetics, starting with the stylized faux-suede upper, which blends nicely with the surrounding Technomico material. A huge Velcro closure tab lives on the shin area, beneath which a full-height gator ensures that feet stay dry even while wading in deep puddles. Two replaceable, micro adjustable nylon/aluminum cam lock buckles with memory retention straps provide a snug, secure fit.

On the road, the Deep Rains exceeded all expectations. I first immersed them in water for a full six-hour bathtub test,



and not a drop leaked inside, nor was there any leakage whatsoever over months of testing. Comfort under all tested conditions was superb, including extended rides through the hottest summer ever on record. Indeed, much of the credit for this goes to the synthetic materials themselves. Despite their robust appearance, these boots are very light, weighing in at only 4.7 pounds total for my size 10 pair. This translated into less fatigue while riding, walking, and hiking. Likewise, the Technomico material simply doesn't scuff unless the boots take a big hit.

At this point in my testing cycle, leather boots typically show multiple wear marks from abrasion against the motorcycle and flying road debris. By contrast, the Deep Rains still look like they came out of the box yesterday. Such admirable performance in real-world conditions should alleviate any initial skepticism riders may have about the synthetic materials used in these boots. While perhaps the luxury and breathability of Technomico and Trockenfuss are a few scintillas below the gold standard of genuine leather and Gore Tex, the MSRP for the Deep Rain boots is only \$295.00—a frankly irresistible value proposition.



—Moshe Levy

Motionation, 619-401-4100, motionation.com

» ALPINESTARS ELOISE AIR JACKET

For a woman, form and function usually need to go hand-in-hand. For me, I like something in the middle. I wanted a jacket that could stand up to weather, impacts, and be comfortable. Alpinestars' Eloise Air Jacket has an attractive and comfortable look, plus CE-certified shoulder and elbow protection. I am usually between a small and medium. After checking the size charts multiple times, I played it safe and went with the larger size. As soon as it was on, though, I knew it was way too small.

I took another look at the size chart, measured everything I needed to measure multiple times, and it looked like a large or extra large would be a better fit. I decided to go with the large, as I didn't want a jacket that hung off my form, and I was right on—it was a perfect fit. The torso was as long as I wanted; the arm length fit me great, and when zipped, wasn't cramped in the slightest. I really liked the fit and how light it was, even with all the padding. It was time to test it out on the bike. Because the weather was in the high 80s, I wanted to see if I would be cool enough. I was not disappointed. Thanks to the mesh inserts, I was cool throughout the ride. MSRP is \$179.95.



—Megan Stewart

Alpinestars, 800-409-0903, alpinestars.com



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