

REGULAR READERS MIGHT remember the glowing reviews lavished on our Sidi On-Road Sympatex test boots (MCN November 2007). They lasted through 100,000 miles of brutal all-season commuting, as well as many hours off-road hiking, snowmobiling, and working outdoors before finally calling it quits. With the Sidis retired, we decided to test BMW's entry-level Allround Boots next. Though relatively inexpensive by premium boot standards, the Italian-made Allrounds still boast many standard features serious riders will appreciate. The exterior is comprised of thick 1.8mm leather and Cordura inserts, along with the requisite Gore-Tex membrane for waterproof yet breathable performance. The ankles and toecaps are reinforced, and the shin area is thoroughly padded—a sharp rock which hit the boot while I was traveling at excessive highway speeds barely registered.

A small patch of reflective material is sewn into the rear ankle of the boot, and naturally the sole is both oil and gas resistant. Interestingly, BMW chose to include shift toe reinforcement on both right and left boots, which riders of vintage right-side shift machines will certainly appreciate!

Adjustment and fit is controlled via velcro flap and a high-quality YKK zipper running up the inner ankle, respectively. The wide



range of adjustment allows pant legs to be tucked in comfortably if desired. Overall, the boots are very well built, though stiff initially; as the miles add up they gradually yield and become forgiving, though never quite as “house slipper” comfortable as the Sidis were. Yet they do give you a feeling of security and, with all that padding, feel sturdier and more supportive than the Sidis did.

After 30,000 miles, the Allrounds lived up to their name, performing their duties faithfully in all climates and applications. All-season use is no problem, and not a single drop of water has ever leaked inside despite hours in torrential downpours. The stitching and construction is still tight as a drum, though the leather's dyed finish is surprisingly easy to scuff, especially in areas which see heavy abrasion (such as the toes from road debris, and the left heel from repeated kickstand deployment). An occasional treatment of leather conditioner helps renew those areas. The interior material and soles wear like iron, with virtually no physical sign that these boots have traversed the miles they have. About the only suggestion we'd make to BMW is to offer a taller version of the boots, as these stand approximately 11.5" high, or 1.5" shorter than the aforementioned Sidis. The extra shin protection would be much appreciated. As is, however, they're easily a standout bargain in the mid-priced boot class.

BMW Allround Boots, \$235—www.bmw-riders-gear.com