

First Gear Warm & Safe Dual Remote Control Heat-Troller/Generation 4 Heated Liner

Heat-Troller ●●●●●/Generation 4 Liner ●●●●●

review by Moshe K. Levy

AFTER MCN'S HEATED Riding Gear Comparison went to press (April 2010) Warm & Safe introduced a new version of its Heat-Troller. Unlike all of the controllers previously tested, this one uses a remote control, meaning there is no direct connection between the heated gear and the controller itself. Instead, the remote control communicates wirelessly with a receiver, which is placed inside the jacket liner pocket. The receiver makes the hard-wire connection between the power source from the motorcycle and the input connections on the gear. This model also has a dual output, meaning two separate pieces of gear can be powered independently of each other.

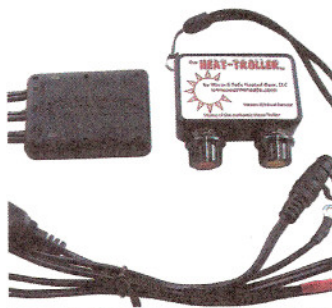
The remote control and the receiver are very easy to synchronize. The process involves turning the controller on and off quickly three times and then plugging the receiver to power within 10 seconds. Once they are synchronized, you never have to do it again. At 0.92" high x 2.2" deep x 2.4" wide, including the knobs, the controller itself is substantially smaller and lighter than the hard-wired Heat-Troller we reviewed in April. And because it doesn't have any bulky power wires coming out of it, it's much easier to mount with the included velcro strip than the traditional Heat-Troller. The remote control even comes with a carrying strap, much like a camera, for quick portability between motorcycles. Power for the remote comes from a commonly available and inexpensive CR2032 coin cell battery, which should last a

full season with normal use. Functionality is the same as traditional heat controllers: Just turn the marked knobs to adjust the heat output of the gear to your preference.

We tested the Dual Remote Control Heat-Troller with W&S's new Generation 4 heated jacket liner, which improves upon the Firstgear W&S liner we reviewed in April, with upgraded heating elements, illuminated reflective piping on the rear sleeves and collar and the addition of a hanger loop. These improvements have made the already class-leading liner even better. Heating performance was slightly improved from the very good levels previously reported for the Firstgear version, and the addition of reflective material was most appreciated for conspicuity at night. Better yet, both the older W&S Generation 3 and the new Generation 4 liners feature a dedicated pocket designed specifically to hold the W&S remote receiver.

We also tested the Dual Remote Control Heat-Troller with other liners, including my 10-year-old Gerbing's liner and the new Microwire version reviewed in April. It functioned flawlessly with both, and the compact receiver was easily stored in the left front pocket of either liner. There's no reason why it shouldn't work with almost any other brand of heated gear, also.

The Dual Remote Control Heat-Troller is a welcome nail in the coffin of archaic and cumbersome hard-wired knob controllers. It allows straightforward mounting, vastly improved ergonomics and effortless portability between multiple bikes. Nicely done!



First Gear Warm & Safe Dual Remote Control Heat-Troller, \$139.95; Generation 4 Heated Jacket Liner, \$224.95—FirstGear, 4900 Alliance Gateway Fwy., Fort Worth, TX 76177; www.firstgear-sa.com