



PRODUCT REVIEW

Double duty

Air N Dry Touring Gloves

Held USA
Distributed by Schuberth North America
heldusa.com
Colors: Black, Black/Gray
Sizes: 7-12
\$250

Reviewed by Moshe K. Levy

Held's innovative Air N Dry gloves promise to perform both wet and dry summer weather duties in one garment, by offering the rider the choice of two chambers in which to put his or her hands. Chamber 1, the "Breezy Chamber," is unlined, perforated and generously vented, as is typical for a summer touring glove. Chamber 2, the "Dry Chamber," is essentially a Gore-Tex membrane that is completely waterproof, windproof and breathable. Thus, the rider can switch between chambers within seconds, eliminating the need to carry multiple pairs of gloves.

Upon first glance, the styling is quite attractive and clearly functional. A closer look reveals the first-rate materials and stout construction one would expect from gloves in this price range. The heart of the exterior



shell's design is a perforated kangaroo leather palm, which is almost twice as abrasion-resistant as cowhide of the same thickness. Surrounding the palm, elasticated leather panels and healthy doses of DuPont Cordura polyamide are safety stitched on the vented fingers and back panel. A "Superfabric" material, made of a 32-percent polyester and 68-percent epoxy resin blend, reinforces the impact areas on the heel of the palm for additional crash protection. The knuckles are fortified with a hard plastic mold, and 3M Scotchlite reflective piping on the fingers and wrist cincher add conspicuity during night riding. A rubber visor wipe is thoughtfully included on the left index finger as well.

The Dry Chamber is essentially a Gore-Tex membrane constructed of 100-percent polyester with a 100-percent polyurethane coating. By now the virtues of Gore-Tex are well proven, and in this case we verified waterproofness by inserting the gloves into a bucket of ice water for over an hour, after which they were retrieved bone dry inside the membrane. The Dry Chamber also completely seals off the perforations

throughout the exterior shell, allowing realistic extended comfort down to 60 degrees.

On the road, our high expectations were exceeded. Fitment is snug but comfortable, and they immediately feel "broken in," thanks to the pre-curved fingers and soft internal materials. Glove adjustment is via large Velcro hook-and-loop straps, which are easy to actuate with the gloves on. The gauntlet opens up to 3.5" maximum, which is just wide enough to fit over a typical summer jacket's cuff in wet weather. We would have appreciated another inch of gauntlet opening for thicker wrists, but this is a minor quibble. As for the main benefit of "one glove for all summer touring needs," we can confirm that these gloves are indeed the solution. Test riding through the brisk morning mountain air, the Dry Chamber was just perfect, blocking off the wind without the bulkiness of a heavier cold-weather glove. A few hours later, as the afternoon sun asserted itself, switching over to the Breezy Chamber allowed plenty of airflow and the increased tactile feel of a summer glove. All in all, these gloves are a superb, original design that serves the multi-functional needs of nearly any touring rider. 🏍️



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