

# PRODUCT TESTS



Heated suit outer shell is made of 200 denier nylon. Insulation is 5 oz. or 8 oz. polyester fiber-filled. Can be machine washed on gentle cycle. Heated glove - notice large guntlet.

## THE GERBING ELECTRIC SUIT

### BRINGING THE ELECTRONIC PLUGGED-IN MAN CLOSER

*I don't know about you guys up north but if I had to do without riding my Ducati for more than two weeks I think I'd have to go into analysis to keep from going nuts. Maybe that's why I live here in south Florida, cause I can ride all year round, but for you Duck freaks up north that's a different story you guys have to suffer. Well, you need not suffer from "lackaridinmahDuke" pains, (a medical terminology discovered by this old Ducati riding analyst in Ft. Lauderdale Florida) now you can ride in the dead of winter and not freeze your ass off, read on fellow Ducatifiles. "It's good news week." \*\**

The Gerbing electric suit is without a doubt the best thing to happen to motorcycles in the cold north since summer. I'll admit that the electric Glo-Gloves we tested a year ago are in the same league, but the suit is even better.

In construction it's similar to several other one-piece foul-weather suits on the market. The outer shell is water resistant urethane-coated nylon, and the inner lining of more nylon, and the space between is quilted and stuffed with a polyester down substitute.

Cuffs have a stretchable knit section that seals the wrists against stray blasts of cold air, and the bottoms of the legs have an elastic strap you stretch around your foot to ensure the legs stay covering you right down to your feet. The neck stands up five cm, is lined with very fine-wale corduroy and closes with a four cm piece of Velcro which allows adjustment to many sizes of neck. If you don't wish to close the neck, the flap folds back and snaps out of the way where it can't wave around in the breeze.

Three pockets are provided. The left-side breast pocket measures 14 X 16 cm and the two front hip-level pockets measure 18.5 X 21 cm. They seal with Velcro across their entire width. A nice touch is that the front piece of the pocket folds under before the Velcro closes, so that water has to pass both the Velcro and a double-folded piece of nylon to get in.

The front closes with a crotch-to-neck two-way zipper that never stuck or got caught. It's a coarse zipper with big pulls that can be operated even with gloves on. A five cm-wide flap closes over the entire zipper and seals with Velcro. An elastic belt with a quick-release fold-over buckle is sewed to the suit and closes around the waist. Elastic is sewed into the suit across the back to continue the belt line, so that when the buckle is done up flapping in the wind is completely eliminated. The belt is adjustable for length.

The legs are split up the side from ankle to mid-thigh. A two-way zipper of the same type that is used up top closes the legs and a nylon flap seals it from the elements with Velcro. The great length of all zippers makes the suit one of the easiest one-piece units to don or doff I've ever tried.

The suit is quite windproof, and while it certainly isn't water-tight it does a pretty good job in light rain. It even keeps you fairly warm down to seven or eight degrees C. without plugging in. But it's when the temperature falls below that that you start to bless the manufacturer.

The suit is honeycombed with electric wires, the same type you'll find in an electric blanket. The wiring is concentrated down the outside of each arm, down the front of the body, across the small of the back up the shoulders and down the legs from the knees to the ankles. A plug-in lead feeds out of one of the lower pockets and jacks into

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