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AEROSTICH: A.D.1 Riderwear Motorcycle Pants

Review by Paul H. Smith

Aerostich's A.D.1 Riderwear pants have already been around for a few years, sport a stable field-tested design, and like many Aerostich products have a relatively large group of devoted users. There's good reasons for this even though they're a wee bit unconventional in a number of ways over more conventional pant designs. The HT600 Denier Nylon/GORE-TEX material, for one, at first feels a little stiff and needs a few hours of wear to break in and become "comfy." And they utilize TF knee crash padding—which may be the best in the business in that this safety standard covers a much larger area, seems to be much more energy absorbing, and is also more comfortable than, say, CE-approved padding.

It's now 8 months since I first tried them on, and I've been wearing the A.D.1s almost exclusively all that time, through just about every kind of weather from rain, to freezing cold, to blistering hot

California sun. I've worn them with just underwear on the hot days and full-length thermos in the cold mountain air—typically with armored "crash" shorts underneath to help reinforce the thighs and the base of the spine. Many wear A.D.1s over a pair of jeans, but even in freezing and mild winter conditions, I found a stalwart pair of thermo long johns, under knee-high riding boots, did the trick.

The A.D.1 pants are extremely well-crafted with gusseted crotch and extra-large radiuses at the knees. Aerostich claims that they'll last you about 50,000–100,000 miles, or between 5 and 10 years. This translates into saddle comfort, with far less of that irritating leg "strangulation" (from riding up the crotch) than any other M.C. pants I own. They're also uncommonly rugged and truly waterproof.

Cleaning is a breeze, too. Splattered mud and most road debris cleans up quickly and easily. Like virtually all motorcycle pants, the A.D.1 completely unzips into halves, and the TF padding is easily removable. Although I've been able to keep them reasonably clean with Windex and a rag, they're washing machine friendly. And—there's no shrinkage!

Although A.D.1s may not be custom-made, they come in lots of sizes—from waist sizes of 30" to 46" in both regular and long lengths, along with rudimentary adjustments at the waist to vary the girth (up to ~2"), and the ankle can accommodate different boot sizes. But generally you'll want to order a size or two above your knocking about jeans. For example, I have a 34" waist and have found that a 38" A.D.1 fits perfect for my dressing style.

A couple of other features worthy of mention: The ankle reflectors and the pockets. The pockets are also sealed, well-placed and convenient. Although it may not be a good idea to place things in your pant pockets while riding, you won't be in any danger of items falling out or of being easily "nicked" when walking about. The ankle reflector really grabs the light, providing an extra bit of safety/visibility. As a bonus, Aerostich includes a money belt instead of a regular belt. Aside from safety aspects, the money belt is surprising handy for emergency funds or if (note to self) you've forgotten your wallet.

The A.D.1s are a good long-term investment with great design features and workmanship sure to last years down the road. Crash protection is plentiful and they will take a good thrashing from the elements while being comfortable for long hours in the saddle. Overall, you can't go wrong with the Aerostich A.D.1 pants.



After 8 months of wear and about 10,000 miles these A.D.1s are holding up like new. Note the extra TF padding protection at the knees and the highly visible reflectors at the ankles.