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# Leatt Dual Axis Knee Armor

by Paul H. Smith

Rider-worn armor is a peculiarly hot topic within our **ADVMoto** community. Although awareness is at an all-time high, there's still a lot of room for improvement. Much of it comes down to insufficient protection due to inadequate coverage or poor fitment. At the same time where does one draw the line on too much/little? Like most things in motorcycling, it's a trade-off.

A bit over a year ago, Ron Grace, founder of the *Lost for a Reason* charity (**LostforaReason.org**) and avid off-roader, turned me on to the idea of repurposing *Leatt's Dual Axis* knee guards from their dirt origins to adventure riding. I've been evaluating them since. And, to put it mildly, these guards are a quantum improvement over the typical knee pads supplied with riding pants. Some may consider them extreme, but going off road or hauling down dirt and gravel roads are normal adventure motorcycling activities, so why not dress for the occasion?

Aside from vastly superior protection, a feature that sets the *Leatt* guards apart from regular knee pads is their anatomically correct dual axis joints. For years my knees have

hurt for days after long rides as a result of the crushing effect of the built-in pads. That may be impossible with the *Leatts*. Not only do the dual axis joints feel exceedingly more natural, I don't even want to imagine the kind of impact that'd cause them to fail. They're that well designed.

Once accustomed to the few extra seconds it takes to strap on the knee guards, and the added bulk, I barely notice them—even after 14-hour rides. They fit comfortably over or under most riding pants, as well as into high enduro-style riding boots, effectively reinforcing the shins, knees and lower thighs. They're also well ventilated. I've worn them for days through everything from blazing hot deserts to sub-freezing High Sierra mountain passes, and they've never shifted or become annoying in any way.

In the past, I've tried many knee guard styles for long adventuring riding purposes, but for multiple reasons wasn't happy with any of them. The biggies included *Velcro* strap failure and the need for constant repositioning—all except the most expensive products wouldn't stay put. *Leatt* gets around this with their conforming shapes and an ingenious fastener system utilizing three wide and stretchy straps (per knee). The *Dual Axis* guards refuse to slide around—everything stays in place even though NO *Velcro* is harmed or killed in the process. And, unlike the typically bare minimum, loose fitting, and shifting knee pads used in riding pants, the knees are radically more protected as the impact is dissipated over a much broader and more stable area.

*Leatt's Dual Axis* knee guards are effective insurance against injury—and a heck of a bargain, too.

**MSRP: \$89 | Sizes: S to XXL Leatt.com**



## PROS

- ▀ Comfortable
- ▀ Maximum protection of knees and shins
- ▀ Doesn't slide or shift around
- ▀ No bruising the knee cap even after long days of riding

## CONS

- ▀ Some riders won't like the added bulk
- ▀ Can feel a little itchy after several days of wear