

Bitz...  Bitz...  Bitz...  Bitz...  Bitz...

Aerostitch Darien Jacket & trousers (heated jacket liner)

When I was riding around New England, although I went the True Brit route with my bike, I decided that it would be sensible to go with local knowledge when it came to my riding kit.

I knew Roger had been testing an Aerostitch suit for almost a year, because every time I saw him he'd unzip this amazing one-piecer and just step out of it like James Bond arriving at a cocktail party (only shorter and minus the tux and bow tie) and whenever he did, he'd rave about all its great little details.

If you read last month's account of my wonderfully chilled but decidedly chilly journey east from Vermont, you'll remember just how grateful I was that Aerostich main man Andy Goldfine ignored my protestations of hardness and insisted that I needed one of their Kanetsu AirVantage electric Liners. It really is so simple; it comes with an inflatable lining, so you wire it in (two minutes), switch it on and then blow it up until you achieve optimum toastiness – amazing!

As for the jacket and trousers, they're everything Roger's suit had suggested they might be: solidly built and full of rider friendly detail. Detail like BIG zips on the jacket pockets that you can operate with one hand while wearing winter mittens, and BIG pockets that you could slide a mittened hand into if you needed to. While the trousers have a very flexible system for waist adjustment and full length zips, so you can just step out of them without having to remove your boots. Both the top and the bottom come with removable hard shell TF3 foam pads – including a proper back pad. Fortunately I'm unable to report on their efficacy – but it does feel like top quality armour.

Oh, and unlike Roger's suit this combo hasn't let a single drop of rain through the zip or anywhere else. Interestingly I had to return to England before I could find a steady enough downpour to give the waterproofing a really thorough test, but it passed with flying (stars & bars) colors.

Not cheap, this lot will cost you over a thousand bucks plus import duty and VAT, but they do exactly what you want them to do, and their reputation suggests that they will continue doing so for a long time to come.

Dave Gurman

*Kanetsu AirVantage Windstopper Elec Liner \$237, Darien trousers \$297, Darien jacket \$517
www.aerostich.com*







WHAT'S ON AT THE ACE

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| 15.02.09 | MAG Fred Hill Memorial Ride-Out |
| 15.02.09 | Singles Sunday |
| 22.02.09 | Mud Pluggers Off-Road Special |
| 01.03.09 | Trike Day in aid of N.A.B.D |
| 08.03.09 | Busy Bee Club Day |
| 15.03.09 | Auto Scoot Sunday |
| 22.03.09 | Ride Out To Sunbeam MCC Pioneer Run |
| 22.03.09 | Honda CX & GL Meet |
| 29.03.09 | Raleigh Cycle Chopper Meet |
| 29.03.09 | Scooter Sunday |
| 04.04.09 | Sidcar Saturday |
| 05.04.09 | BMF Day |
| 12.04.09 | British Bike Day |

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