

A PERSONAL COLLECTION OF GEAR

After you've ridden for a long time you'll probably end up with a large-ish collection of gear. More often than not it's a mix which may include a few near-duplicates or items which for one reason or another are seldom used. Like all technologies, rider's gear continually improves, but for the most part the advances are incremental. A particular item may go out of fashion, but a good pair of riding gloves or a quality jacket from twenty years ago remains a pretty good pair of gloves or riding jacket today. This means your gear should be a careful investment. If you ride regularly and far, the cost of a gear collection to support all-year-all-weather riding is justified.

Here is my own selection. The cost of duplicating this personal 'core' collection is over \$4K, and has been expensed across about ten years, which works out to about \$500/yr. All items are useable for this long...and some for far longer.

Combat Touring Lite Boots - \$347

Ekskin gloves \$67

Insulated elk gloves \$133

Rahpa helmet \$459

Silk scarf \$27

Boot Raincovers \$57

Glove Raincovers \$47

Electric bib \$97

R-3 Light one piece suit

(Tan, Tactical version) \$927

Hip pads (TF5) \$60

Back pad (standard) \$85

Darien light jacket (hi vis yellow) \$527

AD-1 light pants (Gray) \$327

Transit jacket \$987

Total \$4308

Two of the most expensive items are semi-duplicates...having both a Transit and Darien jacket is an absolute luxury. The Darien light jacket is super-nice during the warmest, wettest and coolest times of the year, and the Transit jacket is wonderful for most in-between extremes, and is cool-looking, too. Not on this list are a few hundred dollars worth of incidentals such as base layers, sax and T shirts. Also missing are a pair of Protekt Khakis and Protekt Jeans which I wear occasionally.

For riding around town I usually wear the one-piece R-3 Light. It's the fastest and easiest on-and-off-all-in-one short-hop comfort and protection system. For all-day (and longer) trips it's the AD-1 pants below a Darien or Transit jacket, because it's nice to be able to slip one's jacket off at lunch and for roadside breaks.

— Mr. Subjective, 2-15