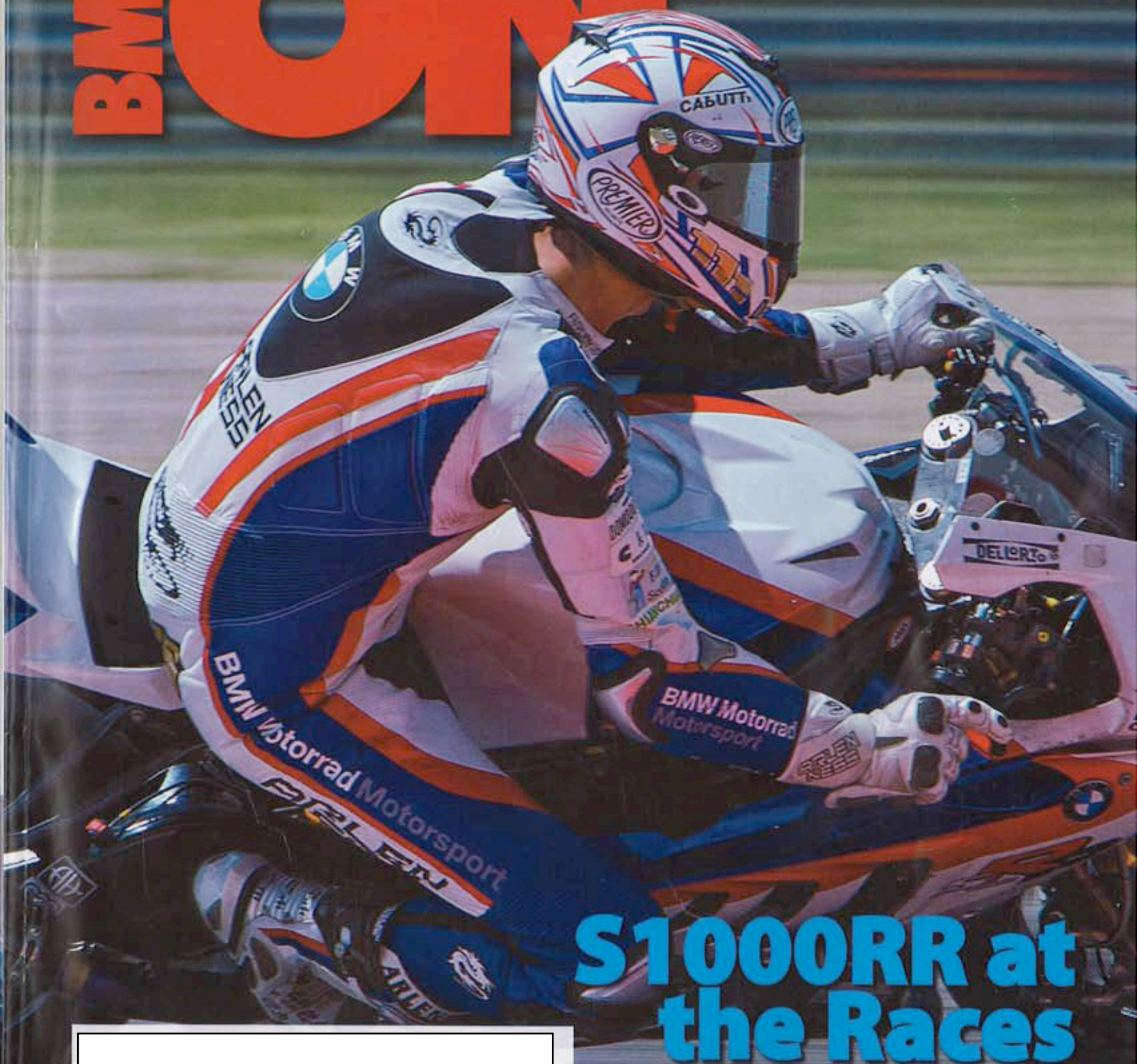


# BMW <sup>®</sup>ION



## S1000RR at the Races



# Neither Rain nor Snow: Thrifty Solution for Extending the Riding Season

By Ron Davis #111820

## Aerostich Triple Digit Glove Covers

WHEN I UPGRADED FROM MY trusty Funduro to a slick R1150R, I never imagined I would miss anything about my previous mount. However, October arrived in Wisconsin and as soon as I hit my first 30-something morning, I realized the 650 had something going for it the R-bike didn't: hand guards. I have decent cold weather gloves, but without the added protection from wind blast those pancake-sized hand guards provided, the tops of my hands felt pretty icy even with my heated grips on high. The following spring I got caught in my first rainstorm on the 1150, and my roppers got soggy a lot faster than they ever had before. Clearly some accessorizing was needed.

I checked into hand guards for the new bike and found many owners use hand guards designed for the GS, but my guy at the BMW dealership advised me against it, citing the possibility (however remote) that the GS guards could mess up my ABS if the brake lever happened to touch them. More importantly, those stock hand guards are pricey, and I'm, well, cheap. I started looking for other solutions.

Some riders apparently like those muff-like covers you slip your hands into, which are a crossover product from snowmobiling, but again I considered the brake problem, and getting your paws out and in while underway didn't look too easy. Also, where I live, there could be a 20 degree difference between my morning and afternoon commute. I needed something quick and easy, not to mention a little cheaper.

I turned to my well-worn Aerostich catalogue and discovered "Triple Digit Glove Covers." I've been a big fan of the "Rider Wearhouse" for years due to their sterling



customer service and great advice. Aerostich's Andy Goldfine recommended looking at both their insulated and uninsulated models, as the uninsulated tend to be more popular.

Of course, both pairs of glove covers arrived the day after I got caught in another downpour, but I immediately set to work testing them out. I had ordered the uninsulated model in Hi-Viz orange (black also available) which gorgeously clashes with my neon yellow jacket, but I'm a sucker for anything that makes me more conspicuous. I wear a medium glove, and these I also got in medium, but the info sheet I got with them suggested I should have gotten a large.

They do fit over my roppers, my summer, crash-proof gloves, and my cold weather gear, but they're a bit snug over my heaviest gloves. The insulated version (available in blue) features a fleece lining across the back and a thinner fleece across the palms, which again made things snug with all my gloves; however, I had no problem operating all controls safely. I recommend going with the next size up from what you usually wear if you plan to wear them over heavy gloves.

Both products feature "ergonomically reversed" hook and loop cinches at the wrist which are easy to adjust, and nifty, tethered cordlocks at the cuffs are a snap to use. There also is a left thumb visor squeegee on both and a slice of Scotchlite reflective fabric for nighttime visibility. The one ounce ripstop nylon and "lobster claw" design had little effect on my "feel" on the road, and the gloves didn't seem slippery when wet. Either model rolls up into a fist-sized package for storage in a tank bag.

On the road, both models effectively cut the wind, and, though I couldn't conjure up anything colder than a 40-degree morning, I think using either model will allow me to

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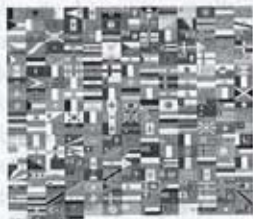
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**productreviews**

wear thinner gloves come November, with my hands still toasty. When I reached my destination, I gave them both the "Holiday Inn Pool Dunk Test," and, ignoring the quizzical looks from swimmers who thought I was from HAZMAT, found both models to be water-tight. Another 10 minute blast under a pulsing shower head also showed no leakage problems. They air dry quickly, though I wonder how long it would take the insulated model to dry if water did



**Top:** Sure, your hands might suggest a lobster, but the Aerostich's "split digit" design allows riders to operate clutch and front brake with two fingers. **Bottom:** Bungees and cord locks are easily the first line of defense against the weather. They're easy to tighten up with glove covers on.

get inside. (A week later I finally did get caught in a rain squall halfway to work. I pulled over, grabbed the glove covers out of my jacket pocket, slipped them on, and was back in business in about three minutes.)

Triple Digit Glove Covers are the solution to my cold and wet weather problems I was looking for, but forced to choose, I'd take the uninsulated model. Even without the fleece lining, they're an economical way to cut the wind and preserve heat without losing dexterity. Both gloves are quality items though, and should give years of service while being packable enough to always be at the ready.

More information on Aerostich's Triple Digit Glove Covers (\$47 uninsulated; \$57, insulated) is available at [www.aerostich.com](http://www.aerostich.com). Shipping runs \$9-\$11. ●