Floating On Air

Things have been stop-and-go in America for Suomy, as the price of its handcrafted Italian helmets means it competes with the elite brands. Returning to this country for another go, the new Suomy MX Tourer is the company’s first foray into the adventure market. Using a Kevlar/fiberglass compound for a strong, lightweight shell, the MX Tourer weighs in at a feathers-like 3 pounds, 1.1 ounces—one of the lightest full-face helmets we have ever tested.

The faceshield is optically clear and is coated with a permanent and effective anti-fogging agent, plus an anti-scratch material for longevity. The shield properly seals against the shell and an internal smoke grey shield slides into place behind the full-face clear visor to keep the after-smoke grey shield slides into place behind her. Seals against the shell and an internal material for longevity. The shield prop is coated with a permanent and effective full-face helmets we have ever tested.

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The MX Tourer extends away from the rider’s face sufficiently far to allow air to come in from underneath, yet not as far as typical dirt bike helmets. The eyeport is the size of most dirt bike helmets, which increases peripheral vision.

For daily use this helmet easily replaces the other helmets in my personal inventory. The MX Tourer is a great value for the incredible light weight, excellent wind handling with the visor, drop-down tinted sun shield, and the ability to be configured to look (and work) like a street helmet for those excessively blustery days. Loaded with capabilities, the Suomy MX Tourer allows the adventure bike rider to enjoy journeys from pre-dawn until after-dark.

—Don Williams

With the faceshield fully down, the wind-generated noise is attenuated to a level similar to a street bike helmet. Additionally, road noise is basically eliminated. This feature also makes the helmet comfortable to wear on long rides, as the rider does not experience fatigue due to excessive noise.

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Lookin’ Good

The ebh and flow of brands can be fascinating to watch. Founded in the 1970s, Fieldsheer built a reputation as a maker of quality, durable motorcycling apparel. Eventually, Fieldsheer faded from the public eye, but it is now making a comeback with strong distribution to motorcycle shops nationwide.

Evidence of this return to form is the Crossroads 2.0 jacket. One can hardly think of a better jacket for making your way across town for dinner, or to a neighborhood bike night. Classy and understated is the best way to describe the Crossroads, making it a jacket that you can wear when you walk into a nice restaurant without feeling like you are making a loud statement.

This is not to say that the Crossroads 2.0 isn’t a practical riding jacket. With semi-hard armor in the shoulders and elbows, the impact protection is adequate for low velocity rides. The back protector is softer and more pliable, focusing on comfort rather than the ultimate in protection. Evidence of this return to form is the Crossroads 2.0 jacket. One can hardly think of a better jacket for making your way across town for dinner, or to a neighborhood bike night. Classy and understated is the best way to describe the Crossroads, making it a jacket that you can wear when you walk into a nice restaurant without feeling like you are making a loud statement.

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What can’t be changed are the clean lines and the comfort of the Fieldsheer jacket. On first wear, it feels just perfect. Velcro belts on each side at the waist mean you can tailor the fit as you like. Action Back stretch panels in the arms and on the back give the flex needed to move around on and off the bike with ease.

The Crossroad’s inner liner uses Fieldsheer’s proprietary Rainguard technology to keep you dry, and it works exceedingly well. Still, the outer shell’s microfiber-padded mandarin collar is not ideal for wet conditions, so consider the waterproofing a bonus, rather than a license to ride in monsoon conditions.

At the other end of the spectrum, the vesting is minimal. If the temperature gets into the upper 90s, it is time to switch to a mesh jacket, as the Crossroads is not apparel for the dead of summer. Also, with the liner removed, the interior workings of the jacket are visible. Some people might not like the look, but I definitely think it’s cool.

High-end appearance seems to be the focus of the Fieldsheer Crossroads 2.0, yet it is also a comfortable technical riding companion capable of all sorts of duty on and off the bike.

—Don Williams