

October 7, 2000

**Product Evaluation: Motoport Canyon Pants, \$145.00.**

About a year has gone by since we purchased the Motoport Atlas AX jacket. It's held up quite well, but regrettably spent most of the year in the closet since the motorcycle engine was fried.

A month ago the engine was replaced and we burned holes in the old motocross pants catching-up on all the riding missed. Opportunity rose to buy some new gear. Pants, since winter was coming once again, waterproof pants. And to our British counterparts, this doesn't mean underwear.

Unlike the approach we took buying the jacket -- directly from Motoport, we wanted the chance to compare different styles and try them on. Hippy-chick that I am, buying pants in general can be a daunting task, so we selected a local shop in Berkeley, California specializing in motorcycle gear for women.

After trying on several pair in various styles, the Canyon Pants clearly won my heart... in extra large no less. ☹ This was a bit perplexing since the 3/4-length Atlas jacket purchased last year was a small... Keep this in mind if buying mail order -- proportions vary greatly between jackets and pants.

What made the Canyon Pants so appealing? Fit. Comfort. Ease of use. Price.

Fit: They fit like a glove -- waist, hips, length. Surprising since the elevation profile from my waist to hips resembles the Omega at Willow Springs. Usually I end up with several inches of waistband-surplus to deal with, thankfully not this time.

Upon arriving home, we took to the task: tearing out the dual-density foam hip pads and knee armor. In fact, the hip pads were not dual-density foam. They were made of single-density foam and I doubt that they would provide much protection at all in a crash. I possess a beefy set of motocross knee & shin armor, and prefer to wear them.

Comfort: The Cordura material is lined with a PVC backing, and the pants are again lined with a synthetic mesh. This caused a bit of concern, for while wearing them for just five minutes in the store, my naked legs began to sweat. And though I'm informed that these pants are primarily intended to be used as overpants -- I can't fathom packing these things for rain-only purposes. I also can't grasp the concept of wearing a web-lined pair of pants over jeans or leathers either. So, the second thing we did when we got home was to wear them over a pair of cotton-lycra tights for a while. Yea, now that was the ticket, they felt fabulous.

A final concern, the patches of stretch material that run from behind the knees down to the cuffs -- Motoport states that these areas may leak. They are lined with a waterproof material, however failure may occur around the stitching. We will only find this out by putting them to the waterproof test. Since the pants we'd used to date had a waterproof-rating of zero, we can probably live with this. Motoport has our confidence in the Atlas AX jacket, which has been a high-and-dry wonder so far.

Ease of use: The Motoport Voyager AX Pant may have been voted "Best" by Rider Magazine, but we found them a pain in the arse to deal with. Zippers, Velcro, buckle, snaps; Oy! In comparison, the Canyon Pants just went on. Like all the other pants we've used for more than 40 years, you know? You put your right foot in, you put your left foot in, you pull them up -- *Voila*. Same old skill set -- and it worked for us -- *Sold*.

Price: \$156 out the door. Bottom-line, over the past year we've geared up for winter riding with products through Motoport, neck to ankles, for about \$409 -- No doubt about it, that's a great deal.