



# SPECIAL REPRINT!

## Teiz Motorsports riding suit

By Nate Jourdan



I'm a gear whore. I love riding gear. It's hard for me to walk away from a manufacturer's booth when there's new gear to be seen. Gloves, jackets, boots, and helmets can keep my attention for hours. I've amassed quite a collection of gear over the years. At last count I have 3 helmets, a plethora of visors for said helmets, 2 mesh jackets, 2 winter jackets, roughly a dozen different pairs of gloves, and a two pairs of riding boots. When it came time to do a review of a new piece of riding gear, I was the logical choice for the job.

I've always been curious about the concept of a one piece riding suit (affectionately referred to as a "onesie" by Amish). The primary reason I haven't tried one prior to this review has been cost. One piece riding suits typically run anywhere from \$600 to \$1500. I just can't wrap my head around spending that kind of money on one piece of equipment. Enter Teiz Motorsports (<http://www.teizms.com/>) and their Cross Continent line of one piece riding suits.

The Cross Continent lineup took the internet by storm after first appearing in Indianapolis at the Dealer Expo this past spring. The Cross Continent series comes in two variants; the Cross Continent Vented Suit and the Cross Continent Mesh. The fact that there's a new piece of riding gear hitting the market isn't particularly shocking or awe inspiring, but the retail pricing of \$249 for the mesh variant and \$289 for the vented version certainly is unheard of.

The price is shocking and admittedly I was a bit skeptical about what kind of quality you can get for that price. My skepticism was way off base.

Pulling the Cross Continent Mesh suit out of the box, my first thought was "man this is heavy". Not heavy like it's going to weigh you down but heavier than any of my mesh gear products. The main shell of the suit is made of 1680 Denier Nylon in the impact areas. It's very heavy and feels like it would perform well in a fall. The mesh material that makes up the remainder of the suit feels as substantial as any I've ever felt or worn. Stitching throughout the suit looks solid with only a few loose threads here and there.

The suit comes with a variety of pockets all over the place. More pockets than I've been able to use so far. Pockets are well placed and thought out for the most part. The map pockets work well for those using paper maps for routing. One helpful pocket feature that isn't seen elsewhere is the 3 coin pockets on the left sleeve. They are on the outside and allow you to pre-sort your change for toll booths, and easily access them with your gloves on. The chest of the suit has two waterproof pockets under flaps. The zippers appear to be water tight with the flap adding that much more protection. These pockets run the majority of the length of the torso. The only down side of

these pockets for me are the size of the openings. My size XXL hands don't fit inside the opening of the pocket very well, making it difficult to fish out items from the deep expanses of the pockets. A quick check of a friend, with more normal size hands, they prove to work just fine.

Another interesting feature of the suit are the two zippers along each side of the hips. These zippers allow access to the pockets of whatever pants you're wearing underneath.

Overall the pockets and placement are excellent. One pocket that I don't really understand is the large pocket on the back of the suit, which is almost as long and wide as the back of the suit. It's like having a backpack built into the suit. Only problem is, you can't really access the pocket unless you take the suit off. I suppose a passenger could use the back pocket, but otherwise I don't see a lot of use there. Additionally, this pocket certainly inhibits some airflow escaping the rear of the suit.

The sleeves feature an extension that is available by simply un-zipping. Before I found the extensions, the sleeves slid up while riding leaving my forearm partially exposed.

With the extensions unzipped the Velcro adjustable cuff stays put over my glove. The waist is highly adjustable with Velcro as well, giving a snug and comfortable fit.



The suit includes a back, shoulder, elbow, knee, and shin armor. All the armor definitely gives a sense of security. No other combination of pants and jacket I own feels as protective.

The suit comes with knee sliders for the track racing crowd, although I suspect these suits won't see a lot of track time. One minor gripe about the knee sliders though. For those of you who have not ridden on a track and had the thrill of planting a knee puck on the asphalt, shifting your body to the inside of the bike in a corner is required to get the knee down. Well the seat of the suit is padded and has a grippy material (which I really like by the way) that makes it difficult to slide around on the seat. Again this really isn't a big deal for me as I won't be hitting the track anytime soon. The knee sliders are attached by heavy velcro and are easily removed. Patches to cover the left over velcro will be available from Teiz Motorsports soon I am told.

Putting the suit on takes a little getting used to. After a few tries I've got it down to about 45 seconds or so; no sitting down required. The suit is incredibly comfortable once you get it on. Once on, I immediately noticed the super soft neoprene cuff linings and neck lining. Also, the weight I mentioned earlier disappears instantly. Coming from wearing separate jacket and pants combinations for awhile it feels a little odd to have a complete unit on. It does sort of remind me of the onesie pajamas I had as a kid (minus the feet areas of course).



I spent a few weeks riding with the suit in different conditions. With work clothes underneath, in shorts, jeans and just about every combination I could conjure up from my closet. I didn't find an uncomfortable combination. I did notice that when wearing denim jeans the legs of the suit had a tendency to "walk" up a bit. This happens in my riding pants as well.

The mesh allows a nice amount of airflow that keeps you cool when moving. In warmer temperatures the suit will get hot if you're stuck in traffic but no more so than any other mesh riding gear. I've yet to find any quality issues to report.

After about 500 miles of testing the suit on local weekend rides and commuting duties I found the suit to be really comfortable while providing a good level of protection. I was fortunate enough to not complete any impact testing, so I can't speak to how it will do in a fall with certainty. At this point the only other testing I could throw at it would be extreme endurance testing. How will the suit feel after 1000 miles (within 24hrs) in the saddle?

For the Iron Butt ride, I wore the Cross Continent Mesh suit over some boxer brief shorts and an Under Armor T-shirt. This proved to be the most comfortable combination yet. After 21 hours on the road the suit didn't gain any of my attention. That's a good thing. You're riding gear should be comfortable and protect you in a fall and not bother you otherwise.

As with all other gear, correct sizing is the key. Always take a good look at a manufacturer's site to ensure your sizing is correct before ordering. Teiz Motorsports has a detailed list of measurements to check to verify your size. Mine came out perfect using the charts.

Keep a close eye on their website. Teiz Motorsports is actively listening to their customers to make sure they incorporate as many features riders want and need into their products. Ghazi Farooq, the man behind the scenes at Teiz Motorsports has been active in many forums gathering information from riders. A good bit of that input has already made its way into the products. We're hoping to schedule an interview with Ghazi and Teiz Motorsports for an upcoming issue, so stay tuned.

Without even considering pricing on this suit, it's a great piece of gear well worth looking into. It should last through many seasons of riding. It would be difficult, if not impossible, to find a set of riding pants and a matching jacket for under \$249, while providing the same level of protection. I'm very pleased that I have finally been able to add this level of quality riding suit to my collection, and at such an unbelievable price!

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