

## All Rants are not created equal...

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Okay forgive me for being so 'out of it'...but I really think that people put too much stock in how to look like a biker rather than the importance of being a good rider!

**Helmet - Any good DOT approved helmet will suffice--unfortunately as far as safety goes not helmet will protect you from a 2-ton vehicle. Helmets are only crash rated for speeds less than 25 mph (or less). The best protection that you can get for your head--is what is IN your head! Being aware of your surroundings, being comfortable on your bike--not hesitant or afraid and most IMPORTANT--experience! Take a course--take advanced courses--practice! For those who only ride seasonally--a refresher course is a great investment, but just going out to a vacant lot and practicing your stopping, turning, shifting, etc., is good also.**

**Jacket - My personal favorite! Okay folks--this may come as a shock, but just because a jacket has a certain label on it -- that does NOT MAKE IT A BETTER JACKET. A label is not going to protect your arms and elbows, back or chest from road rash--face it--a label is a little tiny piece of material, roughly 1 to 2 inches square. If you are relying upon this tiny measly scrap of fabric to protect you--then you really shouldn't be on a bike --PERIOD--nope not even a ten-speed! I went to a very popular motorcycle dealership/shop/boutique and looked at the jackets they are selling--nice--but extremely pricey! Okay--maybe it's just me, but I am not going to pay that amount of money to serve as a rolling billboard for ANY company. Besides, every single jacket was either embossed or embroidered with the company's name. They did have some very attractive jackets--can't say the name, but it sounds like Silly Me, as in silly me--I paid way too much for this jacket! I went down the road to another shop...a western/biker store, and amazingly enough they had the same EXACT jackets on display--same manufacturer, same style, same everything except label. The price was about half of the ones with the label. The more of this story? Some people will pay a lot of money for a little scrap of material that will not even protect them! Your best bet is to look for a good quality leather that has extra protection where it is most needed--arms and elbows. Your safety should always take priority over your fashion statement--especially when you're riding. Besides--the people who see you can't read the label while you're riding by!**

**Pant - This is simple. Any good heavy denim (or canvas) jeans that is comfortable. Not too tight--they are uncomfortable and they tend to hamper your movements. Not too loose--especially in cooler weather--nothing like having a steady cold wind blowing up your pant leg! Frozen limbs also hamper your movement! Chaps--great for cooler weather--especially the lined ones. They protect much better than denim, but face it--when it's 90 degrees--they defeat the whole purpose of 'getting some wind'...**

**Boots - Again, any good, comfortable, medium soled, over the ankle boots. The boots with the thick soles that add two inches to your height, you know the ones with the big chunky heels? They are great if you are not actually in the driver's seat; however--if you are not a pillion pad princess---lose them. Shifting and braking are two important and essential components of riding, if your boots are too big and bulky to adequately perform these things; you are wearing the wrong boots!**

**Gloves - Good leather gloves that fit snugly enough to 'feel' the throttle and your levers. You can wear different styles depending upon the season. Light breathable gloves in warm weather, heavier more wind resistant in cooler weather. Gauntlets in cold weather--they go up over your sleeve so cold air doesn't fill your jacket--I believe I already explained the frozen rider hazard!**

By now, you have probably figured out just where I am going with this response... Focus less on the fashion and the 'image' and more on comfort and safety! I have been riding my own bikes since 1972 (off road), since 1980 (on road). I have never given in to the pressure of what I am supposed to 'look' like to be a biker, this has served me well as I have had the privilege of riding with other bikers of all ilk. A name on a jacket, how stylish your boots are meant nothing compared to being a good safe rider. Besides--ALL women look sexy on a bike!

Thanks for taking the time to read my rant!

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Proud owner of my own Sportster

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