

# Cortech Impulse II Leather Jacket & Tourmaster Apex Leather Pants

I normally write articles about safety and skills or events/rides, and never did a product review, but now seemed like a good time to give it a try. I usually just buy my gear from discount online warehouses and have never really been hooked on any certain brand, until recently.

My first experience with Tourmaster was with their Solution WP Road Boot. Since I teach MSF Rider Courses, having a boot that is not only waterproof but comfortable to be on the range all day was important to me. I'm glad to say that the boots have worked out great. They certainly do the trick, and with a list cost of \$129 I consider them a good buy (plus there are many online retailers that sell them at a reduced price). So, with the success I had with their boots, when I had the opportunity to pick up a Cortech Impulse II Jacket and Tourmaster Apex Leather pants on sale, add the fact that I have become more aware of riding AGATT (All Gear All The Time), I didn't have any reservations with my decision.

## Cortech Impulse II Leather Jacket

Since I like red and have a red and black Harley, I opted for the jacket with the red, black and white color combination. The jacket is constructed with Grade A Drum Dyed leather (1.2-1.3mm). Part of the sleeves and torso area are vented leather and the zippered hand pockets feature a mesh liner and double as vents to help with warmer weather. It comes with CE-approved armor in the elbows and shoulders, and has expansion panels and adjustable waist belts for a better fit.



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The stitching is with high strength bonded nylon and includes 3M™ reflective piping for added night visibility. The Jacket felt comfortable right off the hanger. One cool thing (maybe a pun intended) with the jacket is that it has molded shoulder vents. Now, I figured they would work fine while riding my Buell but wasn't to sure how effective they would be while sitting behind the full fairing and windshield of the Ultra. Much to my surprise (and happiness), the airflow could be felt throughout my back area. The jacket also comes with a full circumference and 8" zipper for pants attachment. To help with cooler weather, the jacket has a removable insulated liner that has a neat feature; the sleeves are also removable to convert it into a vest. The Cortech Impulse II Jacket lists for \$239.

I definitely found the Cortech Impulse II Jacket comfortable for riding in both sport and cruiser mode. The construction is well made (more of a description below) and in my opinion is worth the cost.

## Tourmaster Apex Leather Pants

The pants are made of the same style and thickness leather as the Cortech Jacket, but only come in black. Once again, CE Armor is used, and is also removable from the hips and knees, plus there are foam hip pads for added protection. The pants incorporate accordion style expansion panels and Schoeller® Keprotec® stretch panels for better fit and ease of moving around. Also, to improve comfort, they are lined with a soft mesh lining. There are Velco™ knee patches to attach knee sliders for those who want to go down low.



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Once again I found the pants to fit and wear the same as the Cortech Jacket, and they list for \$239. The one thing I would mention is being sure you check the sizing charts for both if you decide to purchase online. I normally wear an XL size jacket, but with the Cortech I need an XXL. The same with the pants-- the size I normally wear is different from Tourmaster's sizing charts; which I originally ordered wrong, but the folks at Tourmaster helped me out with getting the correct size.

Like many riders, visual appearance and performance of gear is important to me, though good construction is important in the event of a mishap. This is something we normally do not consider or want to test out. But, I have to say I recently did have the unwanted opportunity to "test" the gear.

I was practicing cornering on my Buell in a closed lot, hanging off the seat and doing a little knee sliding. Things were going pretty good, corners were becoming smoother with every pass I made, when suddenly out of nowhere the ground came up on me. I was instantly looking at my headlight, then watched my bike slide away from me. I got up unhurt, but was checking myself out to be sure. My point of bodily impact included my left knee, left elbow and shoulder; damage was minimal, only a few scuffs. My approximate speed was about 25-30mph. Luckily, my bike only suffered a broken shifter peg and slide damage to the left hardbag (which took most of the slide and weight). Looking around, I found the culprit to my demise, a mix of dark and gray asphalt sand blended in with the black-top where it was not visible to me when I checked the site out or during my prior passes. There was just enough sand on the ground that when leaned over and was powering through the corner my rear tire slid out. Anyway, that is my fault, but to attest to the gear performance, it worked great. Sure, I was

ticked off at my oversight, but to walk away with no injuries or pain made me a believer in the performance ability of the Cortech and Tourmaster gear.

To follow up with that, the AGATT is absolutely the way to approach riding. If I had been only wearing jeans, as I have done in the past, my knee would have certainly suffered injury and may have ended my riding season for the year. So, if you are looking for some new gear that's comfortable, fashionable, affordable and works well in protecting you, head over to [www.tourmaster.com](http://www.tourmaster.com) and see what they have to offer. From my point of view, you will not be disappointed.

And if you are going to practice those skills of yours, make sure it is where your riding is unquestionably safe to practice on – lesson learned here.

*Gomo*