

Beat: Lifestyle

## MOTORCYCLE JACKET GUIDE

### Looking for a riding jacket? Made in USA

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**USPA NEWS** - This guide is intended to help you with the selection for both men's and women's leather riding jackets. Made in the USA. Leather offers that cool biker look and the highest level of abrasion resistance.

The traditional leather jacket is still the most popular jacket for most modern motorcycle riders. These days the leather jacket is available in a bunch of options with a seemingly endless enhancements. Bottom line, they are still a great way to protect your skin. Here's a list of features you might come across when looking at a leather riding jacket available today. Adjustable buttons allow a leather jacket to be much more flexible in the sides, back, and waist. Zippers strategically placed along the sides region of the jacket sleeves help achieve that snug fit that not only cheats the wind, but allows flexibility.

Removable internal CE Armor is one of the most common safety additions these days. CE stands for Certification Europe and it indicates that the protective components of the jacket are approved for a high level of impact protection. These pads are intended to absorb impact at the elbow, shoulders, back, and chest area that can help prevent or reduce injuries in the event of a tumble. Integral external hard armor can provide additional abrasion and impact protection over elbows, shoulders, and back as well. These are usually made from hard-plastic, carbon fiber or even Titanium. In most cases, many or all of these various options and features are now utilized in most leather riding jackets.

Thermal & Insulated Liners: Even in warm parts of the country, the weather can get chilly from time to time. That's why it is great to have the versatility of an insulated liner to put inside the riding jacket. That said, not all liners are created equal. The most effective ones include full-length sleeves and multiple attachment points at the ends of the sleeves, in the body and around the edge of the liner. The front should attach with a zipper. A potential weak spot of the zip-out liner is the front of the jacket at the area of the main zipper. If the jacket itself does not have a full length "storm flap" that covers the main zipper it is helpful if the liner does. Otherwise, the exposed zipper can still allow cold air to come in.

Fox Creek Leather is a small, family-owned company located in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains of southwestern Virginia not far from the Blue Ridge Parkway. Vented motorcycle jackets are their best sellers. They include: the Vented Racing Jacket, Classic Motorcycle Jacket I, Classic Motorcycle Jacket II, Commander Motorcycle Jacket, BlackRock Leather Motorcycle Jacket, and the Vented Bomber Motorcycle Jacket.

Being able to ride protected in any season with the same motorcycle jacket is a practical convenience. All of the vented motorcycle jackets have full sleeve zip out insulated liners and an adjustable waist. The side adjustment facilitates layering and helps to seal out cold air. In warm weather the liner can be removed and the vents can be opened allowing cool air to flow through the mesh shell. The Men's Grayson Leather Motorcycle Jacket has a full sleeve removable insulated liner, neck warmer, dual inside pockets, extended kidney panel, and snap side adjustment. The venting system has two arm vents and two rear exit vents for optimal airflow. Dual sleeve and rear vents move the air easily through a mesh shell while an internal wind flap stops it cold at the zipper. A zip out full sleeve insulated liner completes the climate control package. Armor provisional pockets in the elbows, shoulders, and back allow you the option of using body armor with your motorcycle jacket (back armor and shoulder and elbow armor available separately). All of FoxCreek Leather motorcycle jackets are made of full grain leather which has the unique property of being 1.4 to 1.6 mm and yet be ultra soft, pliable and tough as nails.

Today, Langlitz Leathers is a shop in Portland, with a staff of 15 skilled people, a lot of products to choose from, and a fantastic community of customers that spans throughout the world. It didn't start this way though; in fact, when Ross Langlitz first opened up shop in 1947, he never dreamed that the Langlitz name would grow to reach across the ocean.

The Crescent jacket offers a dressier look without sacrificing protection from road rash. It features a straight front zipper with a wind flap, a full bi-swing back, two outside zip pockets, an open inside map pocket, zippered sleeves, and a square bottom.

The Vanson Cobra 2 Jacket represents the culmination of over thirty years of experience in making leather jackets. The Cobra offers

the look and construction of a road race suits with a modified fit for street use in the widest possible temperature range. What is less obvious is the patented air tight Wind Curtain â„¸ behind the perforations that allow the rider complete control over the airflow through the jacket.

The Bottom Line: A quality riding jacket is a good investment and prices can range from about \$500 to around \$1000 depending on what type of leather, design and functional options you are looking for. No matter what type of riding you do, we always recommend choosing a jacket that provides maximum protection, provides weather worthiness you need, along with a great feel. It seems like a lot to look for but the fact is that it has never been easier to find a jacket that suits your needs exactly. Whether you choose a jacket by price, functionality or style there is a jacket out there that is perfect for you.

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