



Cruising Rider

But he still wanted to look good doing it. Form and function as it were. He began designing his vision of the right stuff. It worked out so well that he left the law shingle behind and went full bore designing clothing that is more than clothing.

"I sort of joke that what we're doing is the most interesting thing that's happened to clothing since the bikini," said Jordan, speaking from his home in Ketchum, ID. "For thousands of years clothing has done essentially 2 1/2 things—protect you from the elements, and as an afterthought, make a fashion statement. The other 'half' is the pockets. Well, OK, let's slap a pocket here without thinking much about whether it's a good place for a pocket, what people are going to put in there, how do you avoid things from falling out, how will you be able to feel a vibrating cell phone and easily access it. Today many clothing companies don't allow for those considerations because the designers themselves usually don't carry around a bunch of stuff. It's even more relevant with the 'hands-free' legislation that's passing like wildfire through the United States and already required in Europe and Asia."



Prototype Motorcycle Jacket

Referring to the leather biker jacket, a work in progress, Jordan says, "We're looking forward to hearing the response from motorcyclists and to have their input." The jacket's leather has a comfortable supple feel, somewhere betwixt bad biker and svelte fashion. Pockets and features abound following SeV's already in production gear. So let's count the pockets. That would be a total of 23 of varying sizes, all carefully integrated into the jacket to the point that you have to look carefully for several of the inside compartments. We might have even missed some. We did say stealthy. There's ample room for keys, tape recorder, camera, wallet, passport, change, batteries, address book, walky-talky, cell phone, earphones, CD player, small tool case, energy bars, maps, flashlight, tissues, baseball cap, small binoculars, vitamins, more snack bars, magazine and water bottle. Plus it has the PAN integrated system for running gizmo wiring through the pockets and out of sight and up to the collar where tabs hold your earphone wires in place. As Jordan told us, and we agree, it needs some work on the sleeve closures as well as the overall look since there's a plethora of outer seams and the upper chest pocket flaps tend to bunch up, stuff that needs to be smoothed out. The prototype is a step in the right direction and with more R&R could be a very usable addition to a rider's wardrobe.



PAN Pockets

Here we get to the networking system or Personal Area Network (PAN), hidden channels that allow users to connect electronic devices, a.k.a. gizmos, without any visible wires, the pathways built into ScottEvest vests and jackets. PAN provides a means by which you can plug the electronics through out of sight connections integrated through the pockets, then attached to buds around the collar to route the earphone wires to your ears, à la Secret Service. The features are also present in the company's prototype motorcycle jacket seen here for the first time. Jordan gave CR the first motorcycle mag look at the sample jacket that incorporates all their stealth pocket designs and electronic networking system with the protection of leather.

In addition, we got to examine ScottEvest's Version 3.0 Fleece as well as their Version 3.0+ SeV jacket with an integrated Solar panel. That's right, a wearable solar charging system designed into your clothing that continually charges the battery-operated electronics. Even James Bond didn't have this one. What we have here is a jacket that itself is a gadget.

Shadow Warriors

ScottEvest products have already created quite a buzz in other sections of the country. Word is that the gear has caught the eye of the CIA and certain special ops military services. The story goes that a Secret Service agent was wearing one of the SeV jackets in the White House when George W saw it and asked for one. Bottom line is that you can carry a small laptop in the jacket or a mini-Uzi and no one will know about it. The gear has been on display at the Tech Museum of Innovation in Silicon Valley and The International Spy Museum Store in D.C.

Moreover, the clothing is designed for the "mobile professional" with pockets that don't create bulges and that offer unique features. It has the look of top-quality sports clothing and seems at home in or out of civilization. Does the stuff apply to motorcycling? The quick answer, oh, yeah.

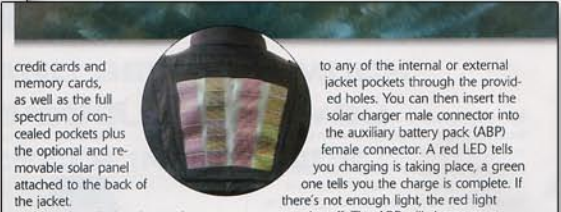
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Solar 3.0 Finetex Jacket with Solar Option

I was ready for my next secret mission, or a run to the burger stand, when I donned this jacket, the company's signature SeV Finetex combined with the removable solar panels. It's got all the hidden bells and whistles (42 pockets and compartments) we mentioned in the prototype biker jacket, plus other features, including a set of hidden epaulets designed to use with any standard belt clip. You can attach devices to either shoulder, for example, hands-free operation of your cell phone/PDA speaker phone/camera or walky-talky. It features magnetic/Velcro/zipper/snap closures, special interior security pockets for



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credit cards and memory cards, as well as the full spectrum of concealed pockets plus the optional and removable solar panel attached to the back of the jacket. Now these jackets have a learning curve to navigate all the pockets and for deciding on your uses for each. They do come with an owner's manual. The accompanying literature is well-written, clear and well, fun. The exterior of the jacket is Finetex that is waterproof, windproof and breathable, also lightweight but tough, has zip-off sleeves turning it into a vest, collar loops for earbuds or microphone, Coolmax lining, the PAN system, a padded collar and James Bondish styling. It's got it act together. It fits, feels and functions with what I'd guess you'd call confidence.

In one of the large hand-warmer pockets, there's even an elastic drink holder to hold a beverage upright and a hat hold clip located at the left bottom seam. In the right exterior breast pocket, there's a plastic holder that pulls out to display a badge/credential holder, ID, nametag, whatever. On the outside of the comfy, felt-lined collar is a hood and on the inside of the collar, a conduit for hiding earphone wires. You want more? In the inside left breast pocket there's a clipped-on eyeglass chamois. The big pocket on the back will take your laptop, magazines, books or even a hydration system. A nice touch is that every pocket has a card listing the pocket's potential uses and applications.

Now for the wildest gizmo, the SeV solar panel. It attaches onto the back of the jacket with hook and loop and looks like a design element rather than hardware. The flexible, lightweight film-thin photo voltaic material is made from copper indium gallium selenide (CIGS), a sun absorbing material placed onto a thin substrate. The panels charge a battery pack that's included and which takes two to three hours to charge in direct sunlight, longer on cloudy days, but also in artificial light. The battery pack takes about the same time to charge a cell phone, three to five hours for an MP3 player.

You route the 4-foot wire into the zipper pocket on the back of the jacket, then

to any of the internal or external jacket pockets through the provided holes. You can then insert the solar charger male connector into the auxiliary battery pack (ABP) female connector. A red LED tells you charging is taking place, a green one tells you the charge is complete. If there's not enough light, the red light remains off. The ABP will charge most USB compatible devices, but note that Apple iPod is a bit more iffy and requires "computer authentication." Next you use a standard cable (not supplied) to the auxiliary box female USB port and connect it to your handheld device. You can charge it while riding, sort of a mobile solar generating plant on two wheels. The solar panels can get wet, but you don't want to take them scuba diving. Also, you can only charge one device at a time. But if you're camping in Death Valley without a wall outlet in sight, it's still got juice.

We think the solar charger is way nifty and certainly makes sense if you're cruising off the beaten track and far from electrical hookups. Having a readily available source of energy (and pollution-free to boot) seems a boon. Plus the grin factory explaining what that thing lying across your back does is worth the price of admission. And you can wear those curly earphone wires, which might get you a better table at McDonald's.

Version 3.0 Fleece

I also give a thumbs-up to the ScottEvest 3.0 Fleece. Along with a multitude of stealthy pockets and compartments, its detachable sleeves allow for instant vest transformation, plus it serves double duty as a liner for the SeV jacket or just as a layer under your regular cruising jacket or riding suit. It has quality construction, it's versatile, warm, comfortable, lightweight and functional, has outstanding carrying capacity and gets high-style ratings. How much? The Version 3.0 Fleece \$130; the Solar 3.0 Finetex \$425; the Motorcycle Jacket (prototype): No price established.



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For more information, call ScottEvest, 866-909-8378; www.scottevest.com CR

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