

CBX Rider Product Tests

Joe Rocket Phoenix Summer Mesh Jacket

ESTIMATED STREET PRICE: \$110-\$140

Competing Products

I compared the Joe Rocket Phoenix Mesh at a local Deals with a First Gear mesh jacket and closely analyzed the comparison of summer jackets in Motorcycle Consumer News July 2002 issue.

Background

I was first exposed to "summer" jackets by a fishing guide in Key West Florida in March of 2002. Needless to say, it can be very unpleasant to ride in high temperatures with high humidity. My guide had just purchased his new Joe Rocket Phoenix jacket to use with his new 1200 Bandit and was happy to let me try it. It felt good (cool) and the fit was great.

The weather this past summer in Washington DC was way too hot. We had 20 plus days in a row with 90 degree or higher temperatures. I am an admitted comfort freak. It is simply not fun to ride when the temperature is way up there. I always ride with full protective gear even during the summer. If it is too hot, I just don't ride. I wanted to extend my level of comfort on hot days and decided to buy a summer jacket. My First Gear leather jacket and perforated leather pants were too hot on most summer days.

I liked the looks and feel of the Joe Rocket Phoenix jacket. After reading in a subsequent MCN that several readers had sent in letters attesting to the crash worthiness of it, I bought one for \$129.00 including shipping from Chapparral online. I have since found it on sale during the holidays at www.tonker.com/ for \$109.50. Tonker is located in Florida.

First Impressions

The Phoenix jacket zipped right up to my First Gear summer leather pants. The first ride I took on a hot day I was very pleased with the performance of the Phoenix. No flapping at any speed and I felt like I was wearing nothing but a tee shirt. I love this jacket and would recommend it to anyone.

Yeas

Free-air™ poly/mesh shell
Dual density armor
Adjustable waist band
8" zipper for pant attachment
Reflective stripe
High density padding in shoulders, elbows and back



Zipper for optional Sahara vest or Dry Tech® liner

Dry Tech Liner: Waterproof liner zips into phoenix 2.0 jacket

Sahara *Cooling Vest*: 100% nylon shell, evaporative cooling system uses polymers to absorb body heat and release it through external vest surface, and can be worn separately or zip into phoenix jacket

Nays

It would be even cooler if the armor had "air channels"

CBX Rider Product Team Rating:
6 Cylinders

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

We want to hear the good, the bad & the ugly

e the National Director at:
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or write:

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It's 4 to 5 inches long,
and about 2 inches
or so in diameter . . .
what CBX part is this?

Answer next Xpress.