

PRODUCT REVIEW BY SAM WHITEHEAD

GERBING'S HEATED CLOTHING

It's not always cool to be cool



I DIG FROSTBITE AS MUCH AS THE NEXT GUY. There's nothing more macho than prying my frigid body off a bike and creeping into some godforsaken diner seeking a moment's refuge — a brief moment, mind you. I'm a hardcore biker, after all. Of course, this usually only happens to me when I venture out for a January blast in chaps and nothing else, but that's another story. The bottom line is, as much as I hate to admit it, it's actually not so bad being toasty while enjoying a winter ride. Truth told, I only came to this conclusion upon wrapping myself in some of Gerbing's legendary heated clothing and hitting the road after a hellacious New England snowstorm — on a 12-hour, sub-20-degree crank.

As many motorcycling (and other outdoor sports) aficionados know, Gerbing's is the first name in top-quality heated clothing. The company has been in the game since 1976, and that's all it does. On Gerbing's advice, I went with a relatively simple, and remarkably effective, three-piece combo. Up top, the sharp-looking Gordon Gerbing Limited Edition Heated Jacket Liner (\$209) features heating pads on the chest, back, collar, and sleeves, with compressible, water-repellent Thinsulate insulation. The liner

fits snugly under outer garments. The same can be said for the Heated Pants Liner (\$199). My paws were protected by the company's heated, water-resistant, Thinsulate G3 Gloves (\$169); these are rich, cushioned, black leather gauntlets that warm the length of each finger, as well as the back of one's hand. Since Gerbing's claims that all of this gear rates upwards of a sweltering 130 degrees at 32 degrees Fahrenheit, I opted for the Portable Dual Temp-Controller (\$99), to dial down the furnace and keep things from getting swampy. The entire outfit can be plugged in and regulated as one piece. How convenient.

One of Gerbing's tags is "Heat good. Cold bad." Wise words. Although, I'm really going to miss that frostbite. AIM

SOURCES

Gerbing's Heated
 Clothing
 800/646-5916
www.Gerbing.com