

PRODUCT REVIEW BY BUZZ KANTER

# HARLEY HERITAGE JACKET

## Three-season option



TO MANY OF US, BLACK FABRIC IS A WELCOME step away from black leather when it comes to riding gear. Leather simply doesn't cut it in the rain or snow, while well-designed fabric riding gear does. Besides, textile motorcycle gear dries a lot faster than leather, something you really appreciate when you have to wear it the next day.

Harley's textile Heritage jacket (#98261-07VM/ \$250 S-XL, \$260 2XL, and 3XL) is a good

three-season option that should do a solid job protecting you in all but the coldest weather. If it's chilly, zip in the lining and pull on some warm gloves. When the temperature climbs, zip out and stash the lining. If it gets really hot, open the four vents and let the air flow through. Makes a lot of sense, doesn't it?

This jacket successfully blends traditional style with modern conveniences. I like the flowthrough venting design with a zippered vent on each arm and two more on the back. Pliable body armor will protect you at the shoulders, elbows, and forearms. Your wrists and arms are protected by hook and tuff closures on the expandable wrist sections, which are also reinforced with a padded, wear-resistant material. The neck features a raised collar with a drawstring design to keep out the cold, or keep in the heat. The removable liner is a very simple, all-black polyester item. It features a small Velcro-topped cellphone holder on the inside left and a larger pocket on the inside right. The elasticized finish at the wrists functions much like the drawstring collar, keeping cold out and retaining warmth.

This jacket has two small inside pockets along the zippers and plenty more on the outside, plus two zippered hand warmers, a couple of hook and tuff- and flap-covered breast pockets, and an extra zippered storage pocket on the right side. The back of the jacket is cut a little longer, which helps eliminate the dreaded plumber's crack when in a riding position, and the waist is elasticized to keep out the elements.

I also like the jacket's color treatment and logo work. The

jacket's all black, with orange accents along the arms and shoulders that basically outline the body armor. A sharp orange-and-white H-D bar and shield is placed on the left sleeve, "HARLEY-DAVIDSON" is lettered in white on the front left breast, and "HARLEY-DAVIDSON" (in bright orange) and "MOTORCYCLES" (in bright white) appear on the back. Wear this jacket and no one has to guess what brand of motorcycle you ride.

While I like this jacket a great deal, I have one concern: the front zipper. I found that it tends to stick and can be quite

difficult to zip up or down for the first inch on the bottom of the zipper track. I don't know if this is typical of these jackets, or if it's just a problem with the one I reviewed, but it's something you should check before buying one.

If you're looking for a stylish and functional three-season textile jacket, this one is worth considering. AIM

### SOURCES

See your local H-D dealer  
 800/LUV-2RIDE  
[www.Harley-Davidson.com](http://www.Harley-Davidson.com)