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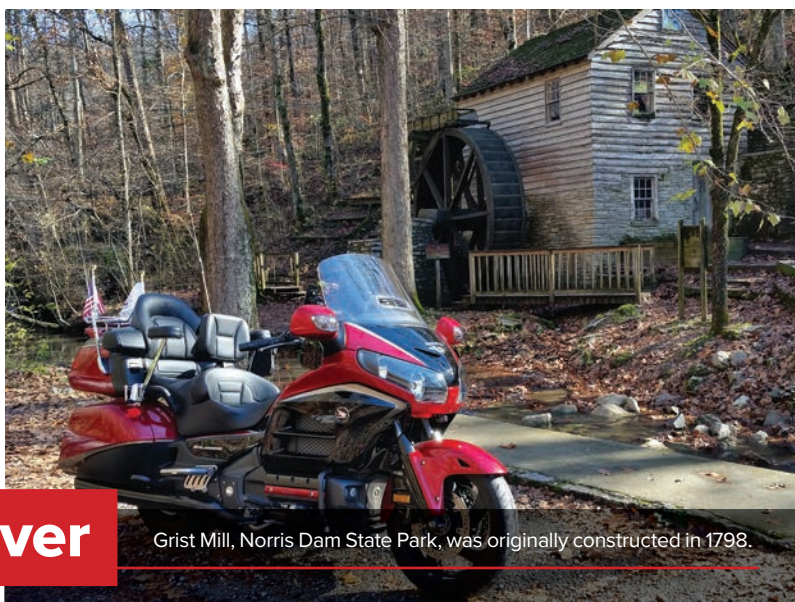
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Product review: Honda Supersport textile jacket



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Claw and Back of the Dragon: Member tested, Member approved



Cover

Grist Mill, Norris Dam State Park, was originally constructed in 1798.

ON THE COVER: We used a cropped photo taken by Gary L. Mace of Lakeway Wings, Chapter F, Morristown, Tennessee, in 2016. Mace's bike is a 2015 40th Anniversary Edition, with over 65K miles on it currently. See entire photo above.

A tale of two jackets

Cycle Gear and Joe Rocket Honda Gold Wing mesh jackets in review



By **Gary L. Mace**

Living in the Southeast, a good mesh jacket is essential gear for many of us who wear protective gear even on those hot humid days. And being a proud Gold Wing owner, it is nice to show off that pride with an officially-licensed branded jacket. For the past few years, my wife and I have been wearing the Joe Rocket Skyline 2.0 Goldwing-branded mesh jackets. Now there is a new similarly priced choice for branded mesh jackets. Cycle Gear has teamed with Honda to provide a great looking officially-licensed Honda Goldwing Mesh Jacket made by Sedici. The Joe Rocket Skyline 2.0 starts at \$189.99 and the Cycle Gear Sedici lists for \$199.99. I was offered the opportunity to try out the Sedici jacket and share my thoughts. After wearing both jackets on several long rides on some very warm days, I submit the following opinions.

Fit

Both jackets seem to fit true to my normal size. The Joe Rocket Skyline is just slightly more of a looser fit. Both jackets offer adjustable waist and elbow straps for the perfect fit. The Sedici jacket does a better job at the wrist adjustment. My Joe Rocket jacket uses a zipper that constantly opens during my ride and I need to re-zip it. A locking zipper would have corrected this. The Sedici does not use a wrist zipper and remains tightly closed even on long rides.

Comfort

The moment I put on the Cycle Gears Sedici jacket, it was immediately clear that it is a far more comfortable jacket than my Joe Rocket Skyline 2.0. Primarily due to the type of CE armor used. Joe Rocket Skyline 2.0 uses very stiff, firmer CE armor at the elbow and shoulder. The Cycle Gear Sedici jacket uses a softer, more flexible armor at these locations. Also noteworthy is that the elbow armor in my Joe Rocket Skyline jacket seems to move around too much. I've often wondered if I ever need it, will it be in the right place. The Sedici jacket seems to do a better job of keeping the armor where it needs to be. I am not an expert on CE armor and won't try to guess which would perform best in a crash. The Cycle Gear Sedici shows its armor as CE Level 2, whereas Joe Rocket customer support told me theirs is EK Type A. Both jackets seem to offer a similar spine pad. The Joe Rocket Skyline has padding at the lumbar area below the spine pad. The Sedici does not have lumbar padding.

Features

The Joe Rocket Skyline jacket comes with a zip out, waterproof liner. The Cycle Gear Sedici does not. Even though my wife and I wear rain gear made by another company, the Joe Rocket jacket liner is very effective as a wind breaker for early mornings or late evenings. It allows us to use the same jacket all day long. Both jackets have two outside pockets. The Joe Rocket jacket offers only one inside pocket whereas the Sedici has four inside pockets – one with a key clip; one sized for glasses; a huge, deep pocket for a helmet face shield; and a map pocket. At first, I thought these extra pockets were a great advantage, but I later found they come at a cost. Both jackets have belt loop snaps to act as a universal connection to pants. The Joe Rocket has an 8-inch zipper section to attach to riding pants, whereas the Cycle Gear Sedici does not.

Airflow

Now for the real test of how these jackets do at providing cooling air flow. When wearing the Cycle Gear Sedici jacket I found myself feeling warmer at my belly area. My arms and upper body felt about the same air flow as my Joe Rocket Skyline. During a few rides, I swapped between these two jackets several times and this confirmed that the Joe Rocket Skyline provided noticeably more air to my lower abdomen area. Looking at the outside of the jackets this didn't make sense as they both seem to have very similar type mesh in the roughly the same areas. But holding the jackets up to light, the problem becomes clear. Those wonderful



CYCLE GEAR SEDICI

PROS

- More comfortable jacket due to CE armor
- CE armor stays in place better
- More useful inside pockets
- Better wrist adjustment

CONS

- Less air flow due to inside pockets
- No lumbar area padding
- Does not come with a liner
- No version styled for ladies

JOE ROCKET SKYLINE 2.0

PROS

- Better airflow
- Waterproof zip-out liner
- Better style option for women
- Lumbar area padding
- 8-inch zipper for riding pants

CONS

- Less pockets inside
- Wrist zipper does not stay closed
- CE armor less flexible
- CE elbow armor moves around too much



extra pockets the Cycle Gear Sedici provides on the inside of the jacket use a tight weaved cloth liner, which blocks air flow. I could not get a photograph clear enough to show the areas of unrestricted airflow, so I used a graphics program to mark these areas in yellow. As can be seen, even though both jackets have a large area of mesh, under that mesh are areas of tightly woven cloth that restrict the airflow. This explains why I felt much warmer in my lower abdomen area when wearing the Cycle Gear Sedici jacket. Conversely, the Cycle Gear Sedici jacket did provide a tad more airflow to my shoulders and upper back since it uses a better air flow material at these locations than does the Joe Rocket Skyline. However, overall, I feel the Joe Rocket did a better job at keeping me cool.

Styling

I think both jackets are good looking and very similarly

styled. My wife likes the fact that the Joe Rocket Skyline 2.0 comes in a women's version that is more stylish and has adjustable back straps for a more form fitting jacket. This could be a factor for couples who like to match.

I believe both jackets do an adequate job of keeping one cool. However, if I had to pick just one jacket, it would be the Joe Rocket Skyline. Even though it is not as comfortable, it does a better job cooling, plus it has a waterproof liner that allows me to take just the one jacket for all-day riding. **W**

Gary Mace is a retired air traffic controller living near Knoxville, Tennessee. His wife and he love to motorcycle camp and have ridden together in 12 countries, the 48 contiguous states and several Canadian provinces. They ride with Lakeway Wings, Chapter F in Morristown, Tennessee.