

FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH

This fall we tested the new Pro Sub 4 Back Protector from Forcefield Systems on the track as well as on the street.

Receiving this back protector was a huge education about how far rider protection has advanced in the last few years. I have been using a Dainese flexible vertebrae-style back protector since I started racing and its style and appearance have remained unchanged for about 15 years now. Looking at these two products side by side is a real eye opener in terms of product advancement and impact protection.

The Sub 4 has shoulder straps as well as a clever two-part Velcro waist belt to help the back protector go on easily and, more importantly, keep it from moving around under your leathers once in place.

The first time I tried the Sub 4 on it was riding up too high until I got the hang of adjusting the shoulder straps loosely enough to position it where needed. The waist belt also keeps it from climbing up the back of your neck while wiggling into one-piece leathers.

This back protector is much thicker than the old flexible vertebrae Dainese-style protector, so if you have to exhale all your air to squeeze into your leathers now, you will be in trouble with your new back protector. But if your suit fits you properly, you are good to go. Once on, the compressible foam seems to take a mould of your back, and once you are under way, you forget that it is there.

The Forcefield Pro Sub 4 back protector got its name from being the first motorcycle back protector in the world to transmit less than 4 kN of force in the EN 1621-2:2003 standard testing regime. This test records impact absorption and dispersion, and involves dropping a fixed weight from a known height onto a pressure table that measures the force of the impact. The lower the impact force recorded, the better the garment is at dispersing the hit. The current standard is 9 kN, which shows how far ahead this product really is.

This product is super comfortable and provides unmatched protection. What better endorsement can we give it?

The Canadian and U.S. distributor is Johnson Leather Corp. (415-775-7393 or www.johnsonleather.com).



FOR LADIES TOO!

Finally, a state-of-the-art back protector designed for women!

If you are anything like me, you have difficulty finding protective gear for motorcycling that is designed to fit women, but is also solid enough to withstand the toughest of elements thrown at it. The Forcefield Ladies L2 Pro back protector is the answer.

Designed with innovative TPro technology, Forcefield armour offers a soft, flexible, shock absorbing back protector that is both lightweight, comfortable and, above all, safe.

The UK-based company has a long history with sports armour, first under the TPro name dating back to 1987, and later when it became Forcefield in 2003. The Forcefield Pro is designed using a unique high-tech triangular shock absorbing material combined with dense, lightweight layers of foam. The layers of foam allow for a shock to be absorbed by the armour and slow the rate of impact to less damaging or non-damaging levels to the user. In other words, you will still feel the impact of a fall or a hit, but the Forcefield armour will lessen the impact significantly and protect you from potentially greater damage.

The waistbelt is a little higher, to better suit the female anatomy, and the shoulder straps are also easily adjustable and quite comfortable to use. When compared to the men's model, the back protector appears to have all of the same features, except that it is designed to fit women.

The only item we would like to add to our wish list is that the model be made available in more sizes than the current one-size, women's medium. At 5'9" this tester found the L2 Pro to be a little short in the torso and we were more comfortable using a men's medium. Perhaps a greater range of women's sizing would be more appropriate.

Reviewed by John Sharrard

Reviewed by Vicki Schouten