

PRODUCT REPORTS—Past and Future

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With the new year upon us, I got to thinking about past product reports I've written for *Wing World* magazine. And that got me to wondering how these products have stood up, at least for *me*, over the long haul. So I figured perhaps it's time I updated those reviews of mine that have appeared in several past issues of the magazine—plus, give you a little insight into a couple of upcoming product reports!

November, 2010: Russell Cycle Products' Day Long Dual Custom Seat

Update: I still love it! I've gotten close to 20,000 miles planted on it, including at least four days of 750-plus miles, and cannot find any fault with this product. My better half, Lyn, has noted a tendency to slide forward in the passenger position; however, it's been nothing worth sending the seat back for an alteration. (Though that *could* be justification for a dream ride to the West Coast for a factory visit!) It's not our first—and will not be our last—seat from Russell Cycle Products.

January, 2011: GoldwingHIDs.com's HID Headlight Conversion

Update: This product continues to operate without any issues. But when installing it, I noted that the design, in my opinion anyway, did not properly seal out water from the headlamp assembly. If the design has not yet changed, then I would personally not buy it. **PLEASE NOTE: Neither GWRRA, nor any of its affiliates (including *Wing World* magazine), endorse the use of equipment for on-road motorcycle/trike travel that is not DOT-approved.**

October, 2011: The e-Tint Liquid Crystal Motorcycle Visor Insert

Update: This is another "I love it" product. However, it unfortunately failed shortly after my review of it was sent in for publication. That said, a replacement was provided without question, and it lasted about a year. I'd hoped for a longer life span at its price point; hopefully, a more dependable version will be available sometime in the near future.

January, 2012: Diamond Gusset Jeans' Women's Defender Motorcycle Jeans

Update: Okay, yes, this was a review of *women's* jeans—but that's because I wrote it in conjunction with my daughter, Lindsey. What happened was that, as a result of a shipping mix-up, two pairs of jeans (including a men's version) arrived and I couldn't pass up the opportunity for a father-daughter evaluation. In early fall of last year, I took a 2,400-mile ride over five days. Temperatures ranged from 40 to 80 degrees F. While things *did* get a bit warm at the higher temps, my legs were adequately comfortable at 40 degrees. The last day was over 750 miles to get back home and when Lyn, my wife, arrived home from work, we hopped onto the Wing and went for a ride. A willingness to hop right back onto a bike after having just gotten back from such a long ride speaks very highly of these jeans...and the seat they were seated on for so many hours. Plus, these jeans have helped to ensure that I'm now more appropriately dressed. Lastly, the father-daughter aspect continues since Lindsey often wears hers as well when riding, an activity we often do together.

A Peek at the Future

So now for the reason behind that five-day, 2,400-mile excursion I just mentioned. As I noted at the beginning of this article, I want to give you a little insight into a couple of upcoming product reports.

I had the pleasure of making this trip behind an F4 Customs' F+4 windshield (f4customs.com), which has just undergone some design changes last year. Plus, my trip destination was Traxxion-Dynamics (traxxion.com) in Woodstock, Georgia for their complete package of suspension upgrades. This package includes their AK-20 cartridges, triple clamp with All Balls steering head bearings, fork brace with fork protectors and redesigned rear shock with steel braided brake line. The people and facility at Traxxion-Dynamics were extremely impressive, and the machine shop is kept so clean and orderly that Haas, the manufacturer of the machines, uses it as a showroom for potential customers.

So there you have it—a few updates on past products and a peek at what's in store soon. Look for the reviews of these fine products in upcoming issues of *Wing World* magazine!