

Cool Advantage

Portable Cooling/Heating Apparel & Systems

*It Doesn't Have A Kitchen Sink,
But It Does Have Running Water!*

Recently, on a warm (93 degree) day in Phoenix with our bike parked in the garage, I hooked up the neatest thing on our bike. At the request of *Wing World*, my wife Sandi & I were about to do a test ride using the Cool Advantage portable cooling/heating system you may have noticed advertised recently in our favorite magazine. The Cool Advantage system is a set of water-cooled vests that circulates water that is stored in an ice-filled cooler. For the test, ours was mounted on a caddy attached to the trailer hitch provided by Cool Advantage.

The entire installation was easily explained on a one-page list of instructions, and our (temporary) installation took me about 15 minutes. I didn't try to conceal the tubes or battery hook-up as this was only a test to see if this thing really worked.

I put the ice and water in the cooler and turned the individual controllers up to "warp-10" for both vests. Sandi already had her vest on and a light jacket over that. Within a minute or two, her vest's cooling channels were completely filled with ice-cold water. She said, "Okay, get me out in the sunshine quick! I'm freezing already!"

We drove around the neighborhood just to try this incredible invention out. We found it to be very refreshing. We then stopped at a convenience store to buy a block of ice. This is recommended, as it will last longer than cubes or crushed ice. While standing at the counter, the clerk asked me if I had a bulletproof vest on. The vest weights about five pounds full of water. This is not a problem when sitting on the bike as the vest holds itself up. When off the bike, you can feel the load on your shoulders. Draining the vest by simply switching off the controller eliminates the weight.

As the temperature increased throughout the afternoon and we cruised along the open desert roads of Arizona, we could feel the heat rising off the pavement but experienced a very pleasant cooling effect from the vest inside our light jackets. The vests offered little or no resistance to movement of our arms or upper bodies while riding.

After almost an hour of open highway cruising we pulled into a rest stop and parked alongside a nice couple on a louder "Brand H" motorcycle. They waved "Hi" and watched in absolute amazement as we unhooked our water lines and removed our jackets and vests. The temperature was near 100

degrees by now and as Sandi unhooked her vest, a little cold water "accidentally" splashed over on our new friends. We were busy for the next ten minutes answering questions about this unbelievable solution to hot-weather riding problems.

At this point we opened our ice chest to find that our block of ice was almost completely gone. We headed off to the nearest store for another dose of block ice!

This Cool Advantage system only draws about two amps from your bike. The pump for each vest sits in the ice chest and is individually controlled at your fingertips. Your vest is made out of 400-denier nylon and is very durable. The hoses all have high-quality quick disconnects and are very easy to operate.

With the addition of an optional heating unit, you could use this system to circulate warm water in the winter so as to provide year-round comfort on your favorite toy. We were glad we did not have to test that part on the same day.

Our thoughts...

First, this invention will allow you to take your bike out in the middle of the Phoenix summer and not turn into a pool of sweat. It would probably be best used on longer trips where your comfort or lack of comfort can easily measure your progress across the country under the hot sun. Since the system does not depend on transpiration for cooling, it should be especially appreciated in climates that are both hot and humid.

Second, it would be fairly easy to freeze half-gallon plastic milk jugs with water and use them instead of ice blocks. This should slow down the melting due to direct immersion in water and still give the desired cooling effect. Most motel managers will freeze your jugs overnight.

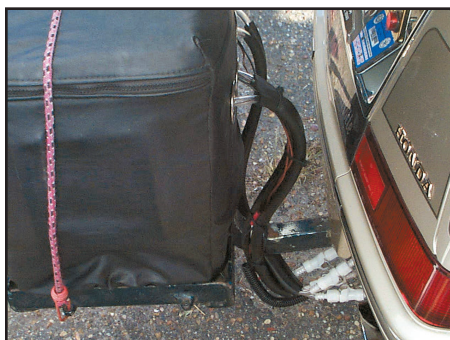
Third, for permanent installation, it would be relatively simple to conceal most of the hose harness and the battery lead. The only "tell-tale" signs would be the short hoses connecting the vest, and the ice chest on the caddy with hoses snaking under the fender. The cooler can also be hidden inside the saddlebags or in the trunk. This will probably be the big topic of conversation at the first rest stop when everyone is complaining how hot it is and you mention that you are too cold!

Finally, if you live in a "warm" part of the country and frequently find yourselves out on a "warm" day enjoying your favorite two-wheeled toy, then skip the kitchen sink, and go directly to the "running water!" The equipment and vest including the caddy will set you back about \$500, but the "cool" experience is priceless! A system to go in the saddlebag or trunk with vests for two people can be had for as little as \$338.

Any questions, contact Ray & Sandi Garris at wingedcoyotes@qwest.net.

—Ray Garris

Cool Advantage, 7441 Bradford Court, Mobile, Alabama 36695. (251) 929-3510 or (251) 463-6818. Fax (251) 633-2528. E-mail info@cooladvantage.com. Web site: www.cooladvantage.com.



You hardly notice the tubing and connections from the caddy when permanently installed.



Circulation pump inside the cooler.



This temporary installation shows how the water lines supply the rider's vest with cool (or warm) water.