

BMW

Motorcycle Magazine

“THE FASTEST BMW”

F800R COMING TO THE U.S.A.

Evaporative Cooling Vest

Chill Out...

BY MARK WHITLEY

JUST BECAUSE IT'S winter in the northern hemisphere, doesn't mean we're all suffering through frost and snow. It's a rare ride that I don't pack both a cooling and heated vest due to the climate and altitude changes available here in Arizona. And summer heat will be back soon enough.

I've been testing the TechNiche International HyperKewl™ evaporative cooling vest since March, through the 110-plus-degree heat and "dry oven" desert season. It's definitely a step up from the old little polymer beads of the wet neck wraps and if you're still using a wet T-shirt, it's time for a revelation. This is a special polymer-embedded fabric that absorbs water in the same

way a sponge does, but stores and slowly releases it while wearing.

You simply soak the garment in water for one to two minutes, squeeze out the excess and put the garment on. You are dry when you wear it, but the water inside the vest slowly evaporates to keep you cool. And the fabric seems to be very durable; it looks and performs as well now after a full season of wetting-and-drying, stuffing, rolling and unrolling over almost daily use.

Specs: Polymer-embedded
Colors: Silver, Khaki, Black and Royal Blue
Sizes: XS-3XL

Depending on your speed, the vest will continue to work anywhere from two-to-four hours on a motorcycle (or five-10 hrs when walking around) and can cool you down by up to 15-degrees F. In areas of high humidity

the vest will not work as well. The vest is designed to work underneath your protective clothing, so long as it receives some airflow, so the best configuration is with a mesh jacket.

I tested the latest style that features zippered, detachable sleeves. Although cooling your core is most important, my usual desert riding appreciated the extra cooling on my arms. The addition of a mandarin collar makes sense, too. I especially liked the zippered pockets when I reached a destination and wanted to continue wearing the cooling vest but without my riding jacket.

Order a close fit for the best performance; the stretch nylon side panels keep the snug feeling comfy. They also have a new style for women featuring a built-in elastic strap that helps contour the vest to your form.

(TESTED)



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