

GIFT FOR GALS: RUKKA LADY AIR POWER

Our choice for the perfect holiday gift for the woman on your list is the Rukka Lady Air Power jacket and pants. Finally, a well-constructed, comfortable, full three-season riding suit has been created that is actually fashionable and doesn't make her look like the Pillsbury doughboy. Combining the best of both high tech and high fashion makes this a very unique product.

The Lady Air Power earns its name by utilizing knitted Cordura AFT (Air Flow Technology) which is 100-percent breathable to comprise the shell. Cordura 2000 reinforcement on abrasion zones such as shoulder, elbows and knees as well as impact resistance with RVP Air System armor is then added. This armor is also unique in its open-weave construction (see photo below) rather than the usual solid pad, while still conforming to the CE norm standard, adding to the breathability. The sleeves have forearm zippers to increase airflow when unzipped.

The jacket and pants each include a waterproof, breathable Gore-Tex liner with lightly quilted insulation. The collar of the liner extends to cover the neck so that she won't get that irritating drip from the helmet into the jacket. Worn together, the shell and liner can be used in a number of ways yielding at least three seasons of comfort.

But enough of the technical stuff and on to what really counts, how it looks. This is one of the few jack-



ets that is actually made to fit a woman's figure rather than just being made smaller. The jacket offers a slimming silhouette with a black center panel that extends over the outer arms. Zippers at the hips and cinches at the waist allow the Lady Air Power to fit 'apples' to 'pears' to everyone in-between. A three-position snap around the upper arm further customizes the fit to the wearer (and what she is wearing underneath). Visibility is enhanced with 3M Scotchlite piping at the seam along the center panel and safety stripes on the legs and just below the shoulder on the arms to give the jacket a sporty flair.

The jacket is packed with details including a small patch to keep the collar's velcro

closure from attaching itself to your helmet liner if the collar is left open. There are a multitude of pockets in both shell and liner and include the now ubiquitous cell phone pocket.



Tested from the 100-degree days of the desert to the low 50s of the mountains, the Lady Air Power was up to the challenge of any cross-country ride. For moderate temperature the lining can be zipped to various degrees to provide more or less airflow for cooling.

For the most cooling possible, the liner is totally removed. Even through a zero-visibility rainstorm, the waterproof liner did its job and stayed completely dry. As with any outdoor activity, layering is the key.

Obviously, the suit is not waterproof without the liners. It may be a hassle to install the liner in the pants on the side of the road (especially since boots don't fit through the legs), but since most suits don't have any ventilation in the pants it's a bonus having truly "cool" pants when you need them.

The Rukka Lady Air Power jacket is priced at \$525 in sizes 4-16, with color choices for side/inner arm panels of silver, red, or black. The matching ladies trousers are available for \$325. The U.S. distributor of the Finnish Rukka brand is Adventure Motorcycle Gear, P.O. Box 366, Springfield, VA 22150, 800-217-3526, Fax 703-913-7261 or www.adventuremotogear.com.

