

**Schampa Products Review
Balaclavas and Skinny Shirt**

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For: Free Riders Press By: J.D. Conner

When bikers are cold, they want to get warm. When they're hot, they want to get cool. When it's dusty, they want to breathe clean air. Seems pretty simple, doesn't it? And it is when you're dressed right. This month's product review reports on Schampa All Weather Gear. Specifically, I tested two types of face mask balaclavas (Warm Skin and Cool Skin) and one Warm Skin Shirt.

The balaclavas were both tested at high speeds in early March with temperature in the twenties, in late April with the temp in the forties and in mid-May with the temp in the seventies. As you know, face protection feels good at all times of the year, but in the winter it is really important to keep your skin from freezing (which happens in minutes in the upper mid-west). The reason that I tested both of the masks at all temperatures was that I wanted to see the differences between the Warm Skin and the Cool Skin.

In the cold and hot temperatures, I could tell differences between the two masks. The differences were not as great as I expected, but the Warm Skin did keep out the cold and hold in the warmth better than the Cool Skin. In the heat, the Cool Skin seemed to get rid of the sweat and keep my head drier and cooler than the other one. A key to the good performance of these balaclavas is the wickability and breathability of the fabric. These blends of materials kind of suck the moisture off your skin and transfer it to the outside surface. By taking the moisture away from your skin, you stay warmer in the cold and cooler in the hot temperatures. These types of materials keep you cooler than if you wear cotton and warmer than if you wear wool.

Each type of balaclava differs slightly in size but they are made to fit most heads. Unless you have a monster-sized head, you will be ok with any of the masks.

You should get one of these Schampa balaclavas, tuck it into your jacket pocket or saddle bag and, the next time the sun goes down and you're getting chilly, put it on and whisper a thanks. Or try the Cool Skin this summer with or without a helmet and feel how good it is to not have your skin baked or ripped up with dust or sand.

The other Schampa product I tested was the Warm Skin Skinny Shirt. Now, this is a shirt I could grow to love. It was invented with two simple goals: to keep a rider warm and reduce the need for as many layers. This shirt is to be worn either right next to the skin or over a tee shirt. It is a snug fit, goes up to mid-neck, and has long sleeves. The sleeves are extra long and have holes for your thumbs to go through, thus assuring that no wind will go up the arms. But, the key here is that this shirt really helped keep me warm. I tested it by riding in the cold wind and by taking layers off until I couldn't stand it any more. In my judgment, the Skinny Shirt will take the place of two layers and it's better than my thick thermal, long underwear. This means that there's less to pack and more arm flexibility.

As with the balaclavas, the Skinny Shirt is wickable and breathable. And it comes in different sizes for a perfect fit. Schampa understands bikers. The company's been in existence for eight years and their product line is growing every year. The owners, Nora and Andy Myers, listen to their customers and are always experimenting with new products. Good quality gear at a good price. Check out the full line of products on their website: www.schampa.com This is our kind of company.



Schampa Baclavas



Schampa's Warm Skin Skinny Shirt

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Most will riding motorcycles on a pilgrimage across the Heartland of America to create a groundswell of support for all of America's Prisoners of War and Missing in Action.

For more information contact
At the law office from 9 AM - 4 PM
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