

GEAR Expo **Exposé**

WORDS: Aaron Frank

New hotness from the 2008 Indianapolis Dealer Show

Get Connected

Cardo Systems' Scala Rider Q2 communications device is the ultimate expression of two-wheeled connectivity, letting you interact wirelessly with passengers and other riders, as well as your phone, GPS, music player or other Bluetooth-enabled device. The \$219.99 Q2 offers bike-to-bike intercom ability over an impressive 500-yard range, and full-duplex technology allows simultaneous speaking and listening. Hands-free VOX support allows riders to receive incoming calls via voice command and initiate calls with one-button, push-and-voice command. ACG volume control automatically adjusts output to the dual slim-line speakers according to speed and ambient noise, and an embedded FM radio fills in gaps when your gadgets are quiet. www.cardosystems.com



Early Warning System

Frustrated after failing to adopt clumsy automotive radar detectors, Adaptive Technologies set out to create the first radar- and laser-detection system specifically for motorcycle use. Speed Measurement Laboratories-certified, weather- and vibration-resistant and featuring oversized buttons that are easier to operate with gloved fingers, the \$309 TPX detects all police radar and laser signals from up to one mile away. It comes complete with a wireless headset alert or a wireless LED visual alert to warn the rider, in addition to messages on the angled LCD viewing screen. Mounts are available to fit nearly any motorcycle. www.adaptivetechnologies.com

Click, Cinch and Go

Moto Cinch promises simpler and more secure motorcycle transportation with its clever strap-free motorcycle tie-down system. Utilizing sturdy cam-action levers that anchor into a track or single connector permanently mounted to a truck bed or trailer, the Moto Cinch holds the bike by its footpegs to minimize stress on forks, seals and springs—not to mention fragile switchgear. Multiple versions are available, made from either aircraft-grade brushed aluminum or MODPLAS aerospace polymer, and the system is compatible with dirtbikes, supermotos and sportbikes—though the latter may require minor footpeg modifications. Cost is \$229.99 for dirtbikes, \$329.99 for streetbikes. www.motocinch.com

Use the Force

We've been testing a Force Field back protector for the past few months and have come to love the lightweight Armourflex shock-absorbing material that conforms exactly to the shape of the wearer's body for unparalleled fit and comfort. It carries a CE Level 2 (highest possible) protection rating and, unlike some EPS-based protectors, can withstand multiple impacts without losing effectiveness. At Indy, the company showed off an expanded range of protective gear to cover the entire upper body, combined here to create the Adventure harness. Appropriate for on- or off-road use, the \$325 Adventure combines chest, back, shoulder and arm protection in one fully adjustable, modular frame for unparalleled comfort and safety. www.forcefieldbodyarmour.com



Wired For Flight

Akuma's unique helmets feature an Integrated Power System that makes possible a host of clever and useful features, including forward-facing map/maintenance lighting, rear-facing dual-mode (steady or flashing) taillights and, on select models, electroluminescent graphics and tint-on-demand visors that darken at the push of a button. Featuring lightweight fiberglass/Kevlar shells and removable/washable Coolmax interiors, the \$399-\$429 lids are DOT/ECE 22-05 approved. The company is particularly proud of its U.S. Armed Forces-themed graphics, though dragons, werewolves and other vaguely demonic images are also available, along with solid colors. www.akumahelmets.com



Re-Boot

Recently renamed footwear firm TCX (formerly known as Oxtar) showed us its latest top-of-the-line roadracing boot, the \$399.99 Competizione RS, and we walked away impressed. The molded-plastic exoskeleton is a four-piece Torsion Control System that allows full lateral and longitudinal motion but prevents torsional movement to protect the ankle joint in a crash. Up front, hidden behind the replaceable steel toe slider, is the pivoting Metatarsal Control System that prevents excessive upward or downward flexing to protect the small bones in the foot. Protection is just half the story; a Fasten Fit internal lace system conforms closely to any rider's individual leg anatomy, while a ventilated sole and perforated footbed help fight hot feet. www.tcxboots.com



Compound Interest

Unlike conventional dual-compound tires that utilize two tread compounds distinctly separated from one another, Conti's RaceAttacks are made using Continuous Compound Technology—a temperature-controlled curing process that creates a continuous gradation from the extra-grippy shoulder tread to the harder, more wear-resistant center. This eliminates the abrupt transition between compounds for more predictable performance. Built on a zero-degree steel-belted carcass for improved stability and feedback, the RaceAttack features slick edges for maximum traction at full lean and a minimalist tread pattern in the center to clear out any moisture. Three versions are offered: Street, Comp (intended for racing only) and Race Rain, priced from \$175 (front) to \$265 (rear), depending on size. www.conti-online.com

