



HALVARSSONS DISCOVERY

I like leather jackets, and wear them out of preference: if only they were waterproof. Oh, they are?

Ah, but how waterproof?

Look at the picture on page 95 of an idiot pouring a full watering can over his head and trust me when I say 'very'. There's a whole feature explaining how that works, but the simple version for our purposes here is that the leather is coated with a water-repellent coating – the Durable Water Repellency layer – to take the impact of rain at speed, and if anything should get through that, there is a waterproof membrane behind it that has got far less work to do than if it were the first line of defence.

What the picture on page 95 doesn't show, is that I took the jacket off and shook it dry.

Obviously, while that was a lot of water, it wasn't relentless as the worst weather can be, but I've never known the jacket to feel heavy through waterlogging, including on a journey I really shouldn't have taken across to Bury St Edmunds, that drowned the Buell!

You might question its claims, looking at the vents and zips, but there's more to the Discovery.

Firstly, you need to know that Halvarssons consider the slip pocket, just inside the zip, to be the only fully waterproof one, and have focused on other areas rather than attempting to seal the outer pockets, which are outside the waterproof membrane anyway. The suspicious-looking vertical metal zip leads to an inconspicuous storm-seal, with nothing more complicated than the inside lip of the jacket being encouraged to form a lip, partly as a barrier, but also as a channel, should anything get through.

And the zips at the tops of the arms are, at first sight, the oddest vents in the world: how do you vent a jacket with an impermeable membrane? The simple answer is that you don't. What you do is to make the outside of the membrane cooler than the inside, and leave the

laws of physics to get on with it: moist air – perspiration – is attracted to cooler, drier air. There are a pair of vents at the rear, too, to let the air back out again.

Combine that with HI-ART reinforcing at vulnerable joints, triple stitching, and adjustable CE armour and it would be a good jacket that looks like a classic BLJ.

Add 'Outlast' – a NASA-developed nanotechnology that uses 3 million paraffin-filled capsules per square centimetre to transfer localised heat across a wider area for easier dispersal – and TFL Cool, which is a coating on the surface of the leather to reflect more of the sun's heat than black leather ordinarily would, and you've got an exceptional technical jacket.

And of course, being Halvarssons, it attaches to a compatible pair of trousers with an 80cm zip.

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