

# A COOL SUMMER



Lindstrands Wrap is a comfort-fit, classic 5-pocket jean – or at least the XL is a comfort fit on me, and with an excellent and welcome leg length – and while they're obviously armoured to motorcyclists, who will recognise them as a glance, they're at the casual end of the scale with stylised white stitching drawing attention to the low slung back pockets, and away from the functional black seams that define where the HI-ART panels are: knees, thighs and backside.

There are also internal pockets at the hips and knees for optional soft CE armour, for that extra peace of mind.

If you're looking for the same sort of thing but waterproof, Lindstrands do a very similar pair called the Yago that we tested last year, which have a Dryway removable membrane, but these are cooler on a hot day than the lined Yagos.

The only downside, being jeans, is that they don't have the zip that would attach them to a jacket, but ...

## Halvarsson Waistzip

600900-00: mens: rrp £19.99

Sorry, what?

A ridiculously simple concept, and one that I've been keen to try for a while now: you might think it's more relevant to a sportier riding position, but don't kid yourself.

Zippering your trousers and jacket together creates a warmer envelope from the gear you're wearing and gives the same sort of thermal protection to your kidneys that a kidney belt would; and this Waistzip, threaded with your belt as it winds through the belt loops of your armoured jeans, turns your leather jacket and jeans into a one-piece suit, of sorts.



Don't get too carried away in terms of its accident protection: the connection is only as strong as the cotton holding your belt loops in place, but backed up by the belt itself, that's still a lot more than would otherwise be preventing your jacket from riding up, and it's often the first sharp impact that we need to be protected from.

Obviously, this is designed to work with the group's own jackets' 80cm zipper, and it's no coincidence that the belt loops in Lindstrands' jeans line up nicely for the slots. And once it's installed on the belt, there's no temptation to take it off when you're not going to be wearing your jacket, because it doesn't get in the way.

Wholeheartedly recommended if you wear Halvarssons gear, and worth copying if you don't but do have a zip inside the back of your jacket

[www.jofama.se](http://www.jofama.se)

## Halvarsson Seventy Jacket

683130-06: mens 48-62 (XS-2XL): rrp £299

At first sight, this is a generic jacket more than proper bike fare – at second glance too, to be honest – but this light, nicely tailored retro-styled bomber jacket has a few tricks up its sleeve: Halvarsson-branded CE-approved armour.

There is a touch of the Joan Collins at the shoulders too, but the pads are not so obtrusive that you wouldn't wear it when you weren't on the bike ... and you can always remove it, because the soft, malleable armour is removable as well as adjustable.

Just unzip the pocket for the optional back protector and you'll find a velcro-secured opening giving access inside the lining: it's easier to remove than replace, and so comfortable in situ anyway that you might as well leave it in: it'll make it look as though you spent hours fashionably working out, rather than enjoyably in the saddle.

If you did choose to remove the armour, you've still got a protective layer in the shoulders and elbows in the form of HI-ART panels – the Jofama group's proprietary knitted abrasion resistant textile – which is said to make leather 200% stronger.

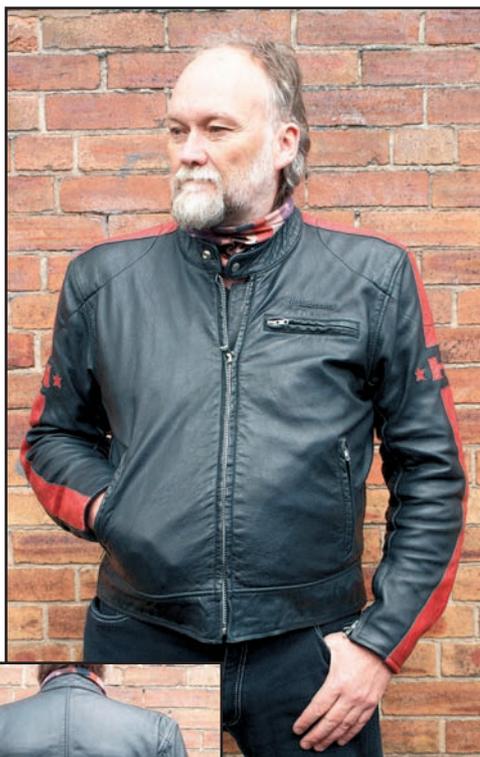
The lack of conspicuous padded armour goes a long way to make the Seventy ideal urban camouflage, and the red leather accent – twin white stripes on the ladies version of the jacket – looks more high street than race track, but don't be fooled: all main seams are triple-stitched for integrity and up inside the back, there is a 80cm zipper to attach it to any pair of Jofama/Lindstrands/Halvarssons riding trousers, which will prevent it riding up if you should you end up sliding down the road on your back ... and keeps unwanted breezes at bay.

It makes no claims to being waterproof but it should tough out the occasional shower; and with three pockets inside and another three out it's not a mobile filing cabinet, but that will help it keep its shape.

## Lindstrands Wrap Jeans

508703-00: XS-2XL: rrp £109.99

Armoured jeans are everywhere, and preference is a very personal thing, based mainly on fit and comfort, with style coming in a close third.



If you haven't noticed the tendency to wear more fashionable and less protective clothing among riders, I'll be very surprised.

I was one of those who, in my youth, rode around in a cheap lancer jacket and a pair of jeans – maybe two pairs when it got cold – with a waxed cotton jacket in reserve in case it rained, and as a result I'm never more comfortable than when in denim and leather. It moves with me, looks better with age, and it says something about me: probably that I'm an immature idiot who refuses to grow up ... which sounds about right.

Luckily for me, and any other unreconstituted teenagers, denim and leather is getting technical these days, and it's increasingly easy to "dress for the crash" in decent lightweight jackets and jeans that are suitable for summer riding gear.

None of this is particularly new in concept, but the combination of the parts in this Scandinavian ensemble adds up to a relatively safe whole.

