



REVIEWS

HALVERSSONS DEDE PANTS

It's been such a bloody good summer that I haven't covered nearly as many miles wearing these unashamedly modern leather pants as I'd anticipated, but for the journeys that I have done – when I have been required to look smarter than even the most exclusive and expensive jeans can carry off – they have been exemplary.

In some respect that has presented a bigger challenge, because while one of their primary features is that they are waterproof – being the other half of a pair that includes the Discovery jacket reviewed last issue – heat is often a bigger issue with leather jeans. And manoeuvrability. And manoeuvrability when hot.

We can easily deal with their waterproofness: the cowhide has been treated and is so water repellent that you can throw a bucket of water at them and then shake them dry. I've done it.

More persistent, real weather is more interesting because you get to watch the rain beading and running up your legs, and as long as the leather is kept clean and occasionally re-treated, there is no reason why anything should get past that primary Durable Water Repellent layer and trouble the waterproof and breathable Dryway+ membrane, other than a biblical flood.

Heat dissipation is no less impressive.

You will get warm, but not properly hot, because the leather has been treated with Jofama's during the tanning and dyeing process with TFL COOL that is reckoned to give a 20°C temperature reduction compared to untreated leather by reflecting the sun's energy when dark colours would usually absorb it.

And should that not be enough by itself, there are a pair of vents running diagonally across the tops of your thighs, and these – like the arm vents on the Discovery jacket – are outside the waterproof membrane, so don't compromise it. They do, however, provide a cool outer surface to draw heat away from the body, and for the space ace nano-technology that is Outlast to work with, dynamically creating heat sinks out of 3 million paraffin capsules per square centimetre, to spread any localised heat over a wider area.

It lacks the stretch panels that you would ordinarily associate with flexible leather garments, but the quality of the leather and its cut doesn't hamper movement as much as many others.

With the CE-approved armour lined up nicely, I've not been tempted to remove it, but then neither have I had the courage to take a pair of scissors to the unfinished bottoms of the legs, which extend a good couple of inches below the zip at the ankle: they are designed to be trimmed to length, and one day I will do it, but it currently means there's plenty of length to the legs whether I'm on my Buell or a feet-first cruiser.

And of course, being Halvarssons, they attach to a compatible jacket with their common 80cm zip, which brings me to the only minor frustration: always wear a belt, and when doing so, make sure that it passes through the small straps that hang the jeans from a regular coat hanger! Or cut the damned things off and make other arrangements. If you don't, you will catch them in the zip and after fifteen minutes wrestling with a jammed zip, no amount of Outlast will shift enough heat far enough away.

Please put those strappy things on the inside next time, fellas.

www.jofama.se

SIZES: MENS: 48-62CM

