

PRODUCT REVIEWS PAST AND FUTURE

BY BILL MCILRATH



Suspension work being done at the Traxxion Dynamics factory in Georgia.

Have you ever read product reviews and wondered how the products stand up to use over the long haul. Perhaps it's time to update some of those reviews of mine that have appeared in past issues of *Wing World* magazine.

NOVEMBER 2010: RUSSELL CYCLE PRODUCTS, DAY-LONG DUAL CUSTOM SEAT. Update: Still love it! Getting close to 40,000 miles planted on it, including at least four days of 750-plus miles, and cannot find any fault with this product. My better half Lyn has noted a tendency to slide forward in the passenger position. It's nothing worth sending the seat back for an alteration, even though it should be covered under their guarantee. (Could be justification for a ride to the West Coast for a factory visit!) It's not our first and will not be our last seat from RCP.

JANUARY 2012: WOMEN'S DEFENDER MOTORCYCLE JEANS FROM DIAMOND GUSSET JEANS.

From the last update: OK, yes, this was a review of women's jeans. As a result of a "shipping mix-up," two pair of jeans arrived and I couldn't pass up the opportunity for a father-daughter evaluation. Last week, I took a 2,400-mile ride over five days. Temperatures ranged from 40 to 80 degrees. While things got a bit warm at the higher temps, my legs were adequately comfortable at 40 degrees. The last day was over 750 miles getting back home. When Lyn arrived home from work we hopped onto the Wing and went for a ride. A willingness to hop back onto a bike after that long a ride speaks very highly of the jeans besides the seat they were sitting on for so many hours. Despite my affinity for riding around in shorts, these jeans have helped to insure I am more appropriately dressed now. The "father-daughter" aspect continues since Lindsey often wears hers as well when riding, much of which we do together. Today: Lindsay and I are still using these on rides and they show very little signs of wear.

JUNE 2013: F4 CUSTOMS, PLUS 4 VENTED WINDSHIELD.

It still looks new! Taller and wider than any other windshield I've ever had on a motorcycle, we love the wind and rain protection. The biggest surprise comes when riding alongside the big rigs. The F4 seems to flex with the vortex coming off the trucks, in effect, absorbing some of the impact and transferring less to the Wing. The result is a more stable ride.

OCTOBER 2013: TRAXXION-DYNAMICS, THE WHOLE PACKAGE.

Undeniably the single most important improvement we have made to our ride. With over 100,000 miles on our 14-year-old bike, we would not consider buying a new Wing – It couldn't match the smooth ride and precise handling ours provides us.

Next up will be a report on the Shorai Lithium Battery. It is smaller and lighter than any battery made for a Gold Wing with three times the cranking power. Will it stand up to the claim? Stand by; I'll let you know. 