

product REPORT

Diamond Gusset Jeans' Women's Defender Motorcycle Jeans

By Bill McIlrath, Wing World Contributing Writer, in collaboration with Lindsay Bullock, of Bethel, Connecticut

The moment *Wing World's* Editor, Sharon Stanley, heard that I had a daughter who rides, I could swear I heard the "plink" of her overhead "light bulb" lighting up. And sure enough, when a product evaluation came up that needed a woman's input, an email showed up asking me if Lindsay would be interested.

Now as it just so happens, Diamond Gusset Jeans wanted its Women's Defender Motorcycle Jeans reviewed and Lindsay had recently been looking for motorcycle jeans that were made to fit the feminine physique. And with these jeans to try out, she almost got everything she'd been hoping for—almost...but I'll explain about that later.

The Defender Jeans Arrive

The Defender Jeans are made with a layer of Kevlar sewn into certain areas for additional protection, just in case of something we prefer not to talk about but may happen anyway.

Now, when Lindsay received Diamond Gusset's pair of Women's Defender Motorcycle Jeans to try out, she had expected something substantially thicker; she'd been thinking along the lines of "Kevlar vests". But the jeans were surprisingly lighter than expected and, compared to run-of-the-mill denim, the Defender Jeans we tested were about 24 percent heavier. However, this difference went unnoticed while simply wearing them.

For sizing purposes, Diamond Gusset has an unusual system. This 25-year-old company measures every pair of their 100-percent American-made jeans and recommends you hand measure your favorite old pair of jeans (ones that fit you just right) then check their size chart. If the chart doesn't show your size, then select the next size smaller on the order form and also specify the actual size you want in the "Comments Section".

According to the Diamond Gusset website, the jeans are: "Constructed of fashionable premium stretch denim (98% cotton, 2% Lycra) and flexible woven Kevlar. The denim is mid-weight and pre-washed to perfection. This classically styled jean has a fifth front pocket and a tan rear leather patch above the rear left pocket. Defender has flexible woven Kevlar in the seat, hips and knees, and a trademark gusset in the crotch. Plus, there are Velcro closures at the ankle."



Lindsay's Conclusions

As for the "almost statement" made earlier, Lindsay expressed only one major dissatisfaction with the jeans—they were baggy. However, this isn't a fault of the jeans. Rather, it's a personal preference; she likes to wear low-rise jeans and these jeans are not low-rise. Still, they are not a high-rise jean, either. I'm guessing that, in order to fit a wide range of people and tastes, these are a mid-rise/regular-fit product. (I do not know if it is even really possible to have a "designer-fit jean" that would be comfortable to wear sitting on a motorcycle.)

That said, though, had Lindsay ordered the next size smaller—and worn them as they're designed to be worn—they would most likely have been a much better fit in accordance with her style. Still, as shown in the photos, the jeans look quite good on her and will definitely get used; they were so comfortable while riding. However, Lindsay did note that she would prefer to see them offered in more styles.



Now, on to what she loved about the jeans. What Lindsay did like were all the pockets as well as the "D ring" (although she is not yet certain what she'll use the ring for). She also very much liked their color and length. (Note: Diamond Gusset states that, by spring, they should also be available in black).

Plus she liked that, near the bottom of the legs, there are Velcro straps used to tighten the opening around riding boots and, thus, cut down on airflow. Though not something she will likely use much—simply because she is more of a warm weather rider—she said it was a nice feature.

Available in sizes 2-20.

MSRP for these jeans is \$124.95.

For more information, visit gussetclothing.com or call (888) 848-7738 [(888) 8GUSSET] or (931) 670-3589.

My Point of View on the Men's Defender Jeans

Diamond Gusset requested the evaluation of the Women's Defender Jeans but—at the risk of ending up with my two cents' worth being added—also sent a pair of Men's Defender Jeans in my size, too.

My first impression was that I was surprised to find the jeans weighed more than my other jeans (but that's probably because I'd been wearing shorts way too much over the summer and fall months).

Overall, I really like them. And for the last several days before writing this article, the jeans certainly got some use as I wore them on the motorcycle, in the car and even while working on my father-in-law's heating system. The only downside I noticed was that the pocket with a Velcro closure wasn't quite deep enough to hold my cell phone and still stay closed.

But that said, I really did like them. And perhaps the best comment I can offer is that they never became uncomfortable. Plus, since I ride year-round in the North East, the Velcro ankle straps will be quite useful to me. And what I really think sets the Diamond Gusset Jeans apart from other jeans and/or riding jeans is the diamond-shaped piece of fabric inside the crotch that allows for greater comfort while seated in the typical riding position.

Let me put it this way: I had three 800-mile days this past riding season and can't wait for an opportunity to try these jeans on my next "long" day of riding. Looks like I'll even have to order a pair in black to wear as part of my "Chapter dress"!

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