

1. INTRODUCTION

Congratulations on your choice of Aerostich Darien pants. Your Darien pants combine the best qualities of leather pants, chaps, and rain pants in a single garment. To receive the best performance from your Darien pants, please read this owner's guide. Call us at (218) 722-1927 if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions.

CAUTION: Unlike leather, your Darien pant's Cordura® Nylon Fabric melts at about 450° F. Contact with superheated exhaust components may damage the fabric.

POCKET SAFETY WARNING: Tools, cameras, etc. carried in your pockets can injure you during a crash. For safety, do not carry hard or pointed objects in the pockets.

LEGAL NOTICE: These garments are not considered to be personal protective equipment as defined in, or within the scope of, the personal protective equipment (EC Directive) regulations 1992 (S.I.1992/3139). No liability will be accepted arising out of these garments' non-compliance with such regulations.

2. ABRASION INFORMATION

Your Darien pants are not designed for high speed abrasion protection, or to be used as a substitute for heavy leather pants. However, they will provide significant abrasion protection when used properly. Darien pants are made from Cordura® Nylon and a Gore Tex® laminate. This lightweight fabric outperforms denim, ordinary synthetics, and fashion weight leather. Low speed crashes will usually only scuff the fabric, but as speeds exceed 30–40 MPH, repairs may be required. Your pants should be returned to us for examination after an impact or abrasion.

Cordura® fabric is very strong, but it differs from leather in several important ways. A great deal of heat is generated by the friction of a slide, so you should wear regular pants underneath to provide thermal insulation between the Darien pants and your skin. If the fabric does become hot enough, our research indicates there is a theoretical possibility that it may melt or cause burns. In actual use, no burns have occurred. Cordura® is also more "slippery" than leather, so you may slide slightly farther in a crash, but roll and tumble less. The optional hip pads increase the pants' crash protection.

3. BREAK-IN

Initially, you may find the fabric feels a bit stiff. Riding several hundred miles will help soften and break in the fabric. Laundering will shorten the break-in period. (See section 10, Laundry and Care.)

4. SIZING AND FITTING

Darien pants are offered in even waist sizes 30" thru 46". A loose comfortable fit is recommended. Sizes are generously cut to maximize freedom of movement, to permit the use of the optional hip pads, and to allow for layering in colder conditions. Custom length alterations are available.

5. COLD WEATHER USE (20°– 65°F)

Dressing in layers will provide the most comfort and flexibility in cold conditions, but do not add so much insulation that your freedom of movement is restricted. You may notice some stiffness in the **TF** Pads during colder weather (see section 8). If this becomes unacceptable, consider removing the pads to provide more room for adding insulating clothing. Effective layers in very cold conditions may include thermal underwear, fleece pants, and electric chaps. On an all-day ride, insulating layers can be removed and packed as the temperature rises, and then re-employed in the afternoon or evening when the temperature begins to drop.

6. HOT WEATHER USE (80°– 100°F)

The Darien pants were designed without a built-in lining which means less weight and maximum air circulation. Free hanging impact pads make the Darien cooler because they hold the pants away from you, permitting increased air circulation. For maximum comfort in very hot weather consider wearing shorts under your Darien pants.

7. WATERPROOFNESS

The GORE-TEX® Cordura® fabric that your Darien pants are made from is one of the most waterproof materials available. Inside, all of its seams are factory sealed using Gore-Seam® heat applied tape. Nevertheless, there are compromises in the design that limit the ultimate waterproof performance. To make the zippers easier to use, the side rainflaps shed water best only in the direction rain is most likely to enter (from the front and above). The front fly zipper is protected underneath the Darien jacket, but if the Darien pants are used with a shorter jacket, this zipper may become exposed to rain.

Fabric care is important for maximum waterproofness in severe conditions. To help your pants work best in the wet, or after long use and multiple laundering, use a wash-in repellent like Nikwax® or spray its exterior with Scotchgard® or a similar waterproof preparation. For most riders, about half a can of one of these spray products, applied every year or two, will prevent water from saturating the outer weave of the Cordura. This treatment makes the pants lighter, drier, and more breathable in wet conditions. Just as water beads on the surface of a waxed car finish, spray treating your pants helps water to bead and run off the surface of the fabric.

Your pants pockets may leak slightly thru the stitching. These areas can be sealed with a seam sealing product like Seam Grip® or Aqua Seal®. Sealants are applied directly to the stitching and to the knit zipper tapes. Because this is noticeable after the sealant has dried, and because pocket leakage may not be a problem, ride through some rain and evaluate your requirements before taking this extra step.

In conditions that combine very high temperatures, high humidity and severe rain, you may not feel comfortable. For GORE-TEX® fabric to work best, the climate outside the pants must be slightly less hot and humid than the micro climate that exists between your skin and the inside of the pants. In other words, at +98°F and 100% humidity, you might be miserable; but at anything less (in temperature, humidity, or both) you will be drier and more comfortable in Darien pants than in anything else.

8. **TF**

Like the hydraulic shock absorbers on a car or motorcycle, **TF**'s remarkable characteristic of stiffening in a high-speed impact yet remaining soft and moldable for comfort make it the perfect pad material for your Darien pants. Somewhat more sensitive to temperature than conventional foams, **TF** performs best between 65°F and 85°F. Fortunately, your body keeps the pads within this temperature range even when the ambient temperature is much warmer or colder. If you leave your pants outside in freezing temperatures, the **TF** may become stiff enough to split when flexed sharply; however, it is easy to repair this damage using any brand of contact cement. Your Darien pants are one of the few motorcyclist garments available using this amazing high technology impact resistant material. Knee pads are removed from their pockets by first detaching each pocket from the pants. Pocket openings face the hook & loop attachment strips used to hold each pad in position. For winter riding you may wish to remove the **TF** entirely, or substitute conventional foam. You should always remove the **TF** when laundering.

9. ADHESIVE HOOK & LOOP AND SEAM TAPE

To make your Darien pants as lightweight, cool, and ventilated as possible there is no lining. This unique, highly functional design exposes the seam sealing tape to wear, and also requires the use of adhesive hook & loop® to locate the impact pads (without any stitching or snaps that would be visible from the outside of the garment). The adhesives used in the seam tape and hook & loop pad mounts are very reliable and should last the life of the pants, but if a part of the adhesive begins to detach, repairs are easy. If you send it to us, mark the areas that need to be checked. If you need adhesive hook & loop or seam tape, call and we will send it to you. The adhesive can be reactivated with heat or solvents, but the easiest way is to simply repair where needed using an adhesive like Seam Grip, or any other general purpose contact cement.

10. LAUNDRY AND CARE

Machine wash recommended. Do not dry clean unless clear distilled hydrocarbon solvent is used for rinsing and spray DWR (Durable Water Repellent) is applied to fabric before drying. Remove **TF^S** pads and contents of all pockets before washing. Close all zippers and pockets. Wash on a warm permanent press cycle (105° F/40° C) using a small amount of liquid detergent. Run the complete wash/rinse cycle a second time with no soap. Do not use powder detergents or any products that contain fabric softeners, conditioners, stain removers or bleach as they will affect garment performance. Do not wash with other heavily soiled clothing. Line dry or machine dry on a warm, gentle cycle. Once dry, tumble dry your garment for 20 minutes to reactivate the DWR treatment on the outer fabric. Do not use any anti-static spray. If unable to tumble dry, iron the dry garment on gentle setting (warm, no steam) by placing a towel between the garment and the iron in order to help reactivate the DWR treatment. Reinsert the **TF^S** pads. Your suit's hook & loop fastener will pick up lint if you wash the suit with towels, etc. When the factory applied DWR treatment can no longer be reactivated (after long use and many wash/dry cycles), apply a new water-repellent treatment (available as a pump-spray or wash-in product) to the garment's outer fabric. This will help water to "bead" on the suit's surface fibers in rainy conditions. Silicone spray or Aerostich Zipper Lube on the zipper chain will help the slider move easier.

After you have put thousands of road miles on your suit, spots, stains and accumulated dirt may be difficult or impossible to entirely remove, but the following technique may be useful (it may, however, compromise your suit's waterproofness). First, spray Clorox® prewash on the soiled spots and rub in by hand. Let stand for 10 minutes. Next, scrub the spots with a brush and a little liquid detergent and let stand for another 10 minutes before washing normally. For individual oil stains, waterless hand cleaner can be worked into the spot by hand and rinsed out thoroughly with very hot tap water.

11. EXCHANGES AND REPAIRS

Please send all items insured and prepaid. Include your name, address, a daytime phone number and the reason for the return. Exchanges and returns for refund must be in new condition. Returns for repair must be clean. If your pants require additional cleaning before being repaired, you will be charged. Some sewing, upholstery, or boat cover shops in your area may be able to patch or repair your pants. If needed, call us, and we will send any materials you require (such as fabrics, reflective material, zippers, etc.). If major repairs are required, we will contact you with a quote before beginning work. If repair costs exceed half the pants replacement value the pants are "totalled", and will not be repaired.

12. FEATURES

The hook & loop closed back pocket is suitable for carrying a wallet, bandanna, etc. The hook & loop backed reflective tabs can be adjusted to gather the lower pant legs for a close, draft-free fit around your boots. The front pockets give you a place to put your hands when standing around talking about motorcycles.

13. FINALLY

Your Darien pants were made by hand by a team of experts who are proud of the quality built into each garment. You can expect your pants to last 5 to 10 years or 50,000 to 100,000 miles. We hope that you will experience many miles and years of safe, comfortable motorcycling while wearing them. Good riding!

ABOUT THE NAME "DARIEN"

About one year after we completed our first Darien jacket prototype, another company came out with a similar three quarter length leather touring jacket called the "Dakar". We were anxious to go ahead, but our Darien introduction had to be postponed because of the demand for Roadcrafter® one and two piece suits. Our resources were (and are) limited, so this delay was about two years. The leather Dakar jacket is named after a town in Africa that is the finish line of a tough endurance race. We wanted a name that indicated the all-American origin of our jacket, conveyed motorcycling adventure, and sounded close enough to the name Dakar to invite comparison.

The Darien Jungle is an unbelievably hot and swampy area in southern Panama of about a hundred miles in length. It is located between Columbia and the Canal. It is considered impassable on foot or by any type of vehicle. It is also the last incomplete section in the Pan American Highway, (a huge civil engineering project of the 50's) which was supposed to be a paved road from Alaska to the bottom of South America. Political changes have made it unlikely that this last missing section, known as the "Darien Gap", will ever be completed. A few adventurous motorcyclists have taken the challenge to ride this jungle. In the 60's Danny Liska walked through, shipping his bike around. In the 80's, 'round the world traveler Helge Pedersen loaded his R80 G/S BMW in a canoe and paddled it through. So did Ed Culberson, except he spent more time hacking out an overland path for his R80 G/S BMW. Others have gone through, but all had lots of help from the people living in the area. Some riders have died there, as these men almost did. All three have written about their adventures. Both Ed and Helge helped test and refine the Darien jacket. So, if you like grandiose highway projects to adventurous places inspired by dreams... If you need a strong jacket (or pants) for extreme weather and for facing unimaginable adversity, then you know why we chose the name Darien. It is to honor the still incomplete Trans American Highway and the riders who have challenged its Darien Gap.

LIMITED GUARANTEE: To the original purchaser, Aero Design & Manufacturing Company, Inc., the manufacturer and seller of Aerostich Riderwear products, guarantees all Aerostich RiderWearHouse products against defects in materials and workmanship for two full years. Since no Aerostich product is indestructible this guarantee does not cover: ordinary wear, soiling and aging; or damage due to contact with super-heated components, misuse or accidents. Repairs due to normal wear and tear over time or accidents will be done at a reasonable charge.

MONEY-BACK SATISFACTION: If you are dissatisfied with any RiderWearHouse Catalog product in any way, you have 30 days from the date of delivery to return the item in an undamaged and unsoiled condition for a full refund, by prepaid delivery to: Aero Design and Manufacturing Company, Inc., 8 South 18th Avenue West, Duluth, Minnesota, 55806.

