

## Helmet Bag, Sockz and Bodz

What to pack when you ride!

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Every few months or so, I find myself about to fly somewhere and wondering what in the world to do with my helmet. I've seen the way that baggage handlers toss luggage around, and I'm not about to put my helmet in my checked luggage. One good bang, and the helmet would be degraded and worthless. Once, I simply carried it through the airport, and a little girl pointed to me and said, "Look, Mommy! It's an astronaut!"

To avoid such attention and scratches or abrasions to my helmet, I have been using a Dowco, Inc. helmet carrier. Constructed of water-repellant nylon with a fleece lining for added protection, the bag fits helmet sizes from full face to motocross-style duck billed helmets. The handles make it easy to carry when you're shuffling around a cup of coffee, boarding pass and cell phone. Once you're on the bike, the helmet bag will crush down into a very small bundle that would fit in a tank or saddle bag. Each helmet bag comes with a two-year limited warranty



and retails for a very reasonable \$12.99. For more information, access [www.dowco-inc.com](http://www.dowco-inc.com).

Another item I rarely ride without are Sockz from Cima, International. I took off for the Wisconsin National with a fresh pair of their Sockz and am both ashamed and proud to say that I rode in them nearly all day, every day for about 6 consecutive days. They claim to be antimicrobial, and I would believe it. They stayed up, and besides being a slight bit funky, were still wearable. They probably would have been more wearable if I'd rinsed them out each night, but I did not in the name of sock science!

Each sock is designed to fit your left or right foot (they come handily labeled in case you need to look down and remember which is your left) and have thicker knitting around the most abrasive areas where your boots would rub. Sockz come in a summer (silver) and winter-weight (ceramic) thickness and both regulate the temperature of your feet. I rarely ride without these now, and I would recommend them to any rider but especially those traveling long distances. All the socks are sized by actual shoe size, in men and women sizes, from Lady 5-6 to Men 12-13. They retail for \$20 per pair for silver and \$25 for ceramic and hold up very well.

Another innovative product from Cima is their line of undergarments called Bodz. They come in short and long-sleeved tops and short and long bottoms. I particularly like the long top and bottoms



when riding in cool weather not only to knock off the chill, but also to provide an extra protective layer between my joints and armor. The short-sleeved top can be soaked in water for a cooling effect in the summer, but feels wonderfully cool on

its own when worn under a vented riding jacket. Like Sockz, you can wash Bodz out at night and expect them to be dry by morning if hung somewhere breezy. They pack small, and passed my "I refuse to wash anything on this trip" test.

Bodz are made with Meryll Skinlife for moisture management and temperature control, and have no seams along the body to cause discomfort. They are long enough to tuck into pants, and stretchy along to sides to fit many body shapes. They range in price between \$40 and \$50 per item. For more information on Cima products, access [www.real-rider.com](http://www.real-rider.com).

