



MOTOZ TRACTIONATOR XCIRCUIT TYRES

The tyre market is now wide open, and riders have more options than ever before. The demand for traction, durability and versatility is something the guys at Motoz Tyres – an Aussie company – have as the number one priority. I threw a fresh set of the angry-looking Motoz Tractionator XCircuits on my Project RM-Z250 and lapped a recent Sprint Series event for their first outing. While they handled well in terms of wear, the conditions were so dry and rugged, it was hard to tell how they performed in the hook-up department. There was very little about riding dirtbikes that felt good that day, including my dislocated shoulder. Motoz claims the front Tractionator actually offers a tread for loose terrain when mounted in one direction, then suits hard-packed terrain when the tyre is mounted the other, meaning the Tractionator is two tyre options in one. I put some laps in on the moist, sandy terrain of my private test track, with the front in loose terrain mode, and found it pushed wide at first. Then I added some more tyre pressure, up to around 12psi, and found that a lot better – I think because of the soft tyre walls and rubber compound (the tyres are made in Malaysia). Next was a hard pack motocross track, so I spun the front hoop again, and found it ran well in terms of wear and grip with my standard pressure – around 15psi. The rear hoop is designed for soft to intermediate terrain, and handled both situations well, especially in the wear department. It also gives good drive out of corners, with very good edge knobs. Motoz Tyres runs some pretty special names for its products, such as Tracula, but the tyres definitely cut the mustard. – **Craig Douglas**

Retail price: Front \$99, Rear \$129 (includes Motoz sticker kit)

Contact: Motoz (02) 9905 5155

Easy to fit.

Didn't prevent getting a flat tyre.

BERIK OVS MX BOOTS

It wasn't long ago that Berik was a relatively unknown brand in the dirtbike world, but then Ricky Carmichael started wearing it and turned the brand into a household name – in dirtbike households, anyway. With the distinctive eyes on the front, RC's boots certainly stood out from the masses of Alpinestars boots on the AMA circuit when he began wearing them in late 2004. I wasn't lucky enough to score the RC replica boots to test, but I have done some time in the next model down. The first thing I noticed was the stiffness of the Berik OVS boots, which I expected to be great for support, but they needed some serious breaking in before I'd be clear on comfort. I first used the Berik boots on a trailride, and after a number of missed gears and a lack of feel I started thinking they'd be better for relatively short stints of motocross racing, rather than full days of trailriding. Five rides later, with the Beriks well run in, and I've changed my tune. I now find the OVS boots very comfortable and I'm happy wearing them on MX tracks and out on the trails. The plentiful ankle padding on the inside of the boot really adds to the comfort factor. Speaking of innards, the inner sole is removable and replaceable. Keeping the boots stuck to your hooves is a four-buckle system that's yet to reveal a weak spot. I haven't had a buckle come unstuck and my only complaint is the lack of an audible click to confirm that each buckle is locked into position. As you'd expect from an Italian-designed and manufactured boot, the Berik OVS is stylish, comfortable and supportive. Just give the OVS model time to break in and consider black boots instead of 'rock star' white, to cut down on the cleaning time. – **Shannon Warner**

Retail price: \$469

Contact: Gas Imports (03) 9338 1664

Distinctive look and comfortable once broken in.

Relatively long break-in period required.



MSR DROMEDARY WATER BAG

When planning for my epic postie ride across the Nullarbor, I knew I needed to carry around 7lt of water. My Zac Speed EXO TEC SP3 has a 3lt capacity, so I needed to carry at least another 4lt. The guys at the Dirty Daze Outdoor Adventure store in Pakenham came to rescue with an MSR Dromedary 4lt water bag. This baby is made from an abrasion-resistant Cordura outer, with a plastic inner. The bag is tough and best of all it's collapsible when empty. This is a big consideration when packing lightly. As space was precious, the concept of a water bag was ideal. I just threw it in the pannier bag and it found its own place around all my other camping gear, and the tough Cordura outer protected against punctures and leaking. The filler cap is a trick three-function unit. The main cap is large for quick and easy filling, but it also has a smaller nozzle for more precise pouring, and then inside that nozzle is a small fold-out spout that's ideal to control a small stream flow. I used the Dromedary to carry extra water for my EXO TEC SP3 and for the water I needed to cook with. It was ideal. There's a sturdy cord looped through metal eyelets on the outer edges of the bag too, which are perfect if you want to hang it from a tree or your bike's handlebars for easy no-hands pouring. – **Stephen Tuff**

Retail price: \$51.50

Contact: Dirty Daze (03) 5940 0890

A tough and easy way to carry water.

Everyone will want to borrow it.

