

Apocalypse Now: The Zoic Apocalypse Shorts

by Marc Sweeney

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When the cold weather goes and summer is again upon us, we will strip off our heavy coats and pants in favor of more comfortable shirts and shorts. I was very thrilled when I was asked by IPMBA to test the new ZOIC™ Apocalypse Short. Upon receiving the shorts, I immediately had to try them on. The first thing that I noticed was how comfortable they were. The shorts appeared to be built well and overall had a great fit to them.

After admiring myself in the mirror for a few minutes, I removed the shorts and inspected them thoroughly. The shorts are very slim fitting. The four-way stretch nylon fabric seems to make the short very comfortable and easy to move around in. ZOIC™ shorts come with the Italian-made Cytech Stretch Elastic cycle pad. The molded chamois pad is seamless, and is designed to stretch and conform to your every move. These are the first shorts I have worn with a built-in chamois. The integrated knit paneling spans from both sides all the way around to the rear of the short, which offers maximum ventilation and airflow. The front of the shorts includes two zippered vents for added ventilation. Now, we all know that pockets are very important to bike officers and it seems like we never have enough. Well, ZOIC™ Apocalypse shorts come with four pockets. There are two front cargo zippered pockets and two rear zippered pockets. I was truly impressed, since I prefer zippered pockets rather than Velcro. The pockets seemed to be of good size to hold my items while on patrol or just riding a good trail.

I took the shorts to work and showed them off to a couple of the other officers, and everyone wanted to try the short for themselves. But after all the inspecting and admiring myself in the short came the ultimate test: I had to get out and do some hard riding in them. After some good patrol work, and a few trails, I realized that I could have used a pair of these shorts a while back. The shorts are so comfortable, and they hold up extremely well. Any experienced cyclist knows that the built-in pad can provide padding, but is mostly used to absorb moisture that causes chafing and saddle sores. I have experienced both predicaments and know how painful they are. I have worn many other shorts before, but still came up hurting after a good ride. The ZOIC™ Apocalypse short felt different and I did not have any of the above mentioned problems during, or after, my rides while wearing them. I also enjoyed the more than adequate ventilation system on this short. When it got hot, the shorts brought in the airflow. Another feature that impressed me was the belt loops. I have had other riding shorts and pants in which the belt loops broke easily. The Apocalypse shorts have strong stitching to prevent that occurrence. The only small problem that I had was with the zipper on one of the pockets; it seemed to stick a little after some good rides and the washing machine.

After giving these shorts a good test for close to a month, I was honestly impressed with the overall product. The shorts did their job, and they did it well. Alyssa Slamal from ZOIC™ told me that the Apocalypse short wears like a regular short, but functions like a technical riding piece. She was absolutely correct, and has earned a new customer. She also informed me that ZOIC™ was willing and able to make any necessary adjustments that IPMBA members may need done to the short, such as pockets or logos. ZOIC™ is intent on making these shorts not just a need, but a want for all. I believe they have created a product that will fit our needs, is of good quality, and is affordable. Try these out, you will enjoy them!

ZOIC™ Apocalypse shorts can be purchased through the ZOIC website. The shorts are listed at \$75.00 online. ZOIC™ offers IPMBA members a 30% discount off retail price, which would bring the cost at \$52.50. Visit the website at www.zoic.com, call 866-355-9642 or email Alyssa Slamal at Alyssa@zoic.com.

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