

Velo Vision Sample Article



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I hope you enjoy the read!

Peter Eland.

Peter Eland
Editor and Publisher, *Velo Vision*

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Small print

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Reverse Gear Clothing



We review a set of recumbent-specific clothing from well-established USA-based specialists Reverse Gear. Does it ride as well as it looks?



Reverse Gear have been making recumbent-specific clothing for nearly as long as I've been making *Velo Vision*. Len and Judi Bachmann started riding recumbent in 2001, but it was after a move to Canada in 2006 that they went into business. Reverse Gear is still family run to this day, supplying recumbent dealers across the USA, a dealer each in Germany and the Netherlands, and customers by mail order worldwide.

They sent a set of 'Ironbark' shorts and a 'Phoenix LS' long-sleeve jersey to fit your editor – sadly a more toned model was not available. The Phoenix was my choice: I thought a long-sleeve design would be a bit different, as all of my jerseys to date have been short. And I loved the exuberant design: something of the (motor)biker about it perhaps? A package arrived swiftly in the post. Starting with the shorts, the

'recumbent specific' aspect is that they're not encumbered with a bulky, awkward pad like most cycle shorts. Instead they just fit snugly around you as shorts should, with a nice quality fabric and feel.

The long-sleeve Phoenix jersey is



rather lovely, too. The full length zip makes it easy to get on and off, and it's made from a very open, lightweight material which feels cool against the skin. Zips are neatly sewn in, the back is completely seam-free where you sit on it, and the screen-printed pattern has been unaffected by its first few washes. All good.

There are two zip pockets at the front for keys, some cash and a card perhaps, and it wasn't uncomfortable with the weight of a mobile phone in there too. This is the key recumbent feature: almost any other jersey you buy will have pockets at the back where you'll be sitting on the seams uncomfortably.

But the pockets aren't my favourite thing about this top. That goes to the yellow band across the shoulders and down the sleeves. It's brilliant for visibility as you indicate a turn, as the photo should show. The long sleeves were very welcome in the morning chill, and I think this top will be perfect for cooler rides later in the year. I was overheating at times in the summer heat, though, so I'll probably revert to short sleeves for now.

The gear we tested is priced at \$99.95 (Canadian dollars) for the shorts and \$104.95 for the jersey, around 70 Euros or £56 each at current rates – with a small supplement for the very largest sizes, which run from S to an impressive XXXXL. The are full sizing details on the website.

Overall I was pleasantly impressed with this Reverse Gear outfit. If you're finding conventional cycle gear just too compromised while riding laid back, give it a try!

Peter Eland

Reverse Gear: Tel +1 416 551 3494
or see www.reversegearinc.com
Dealers in Europe: see
www.hafa-ligfietsen.nl and www.biker-jo77.de