



Reverse Gear Jazzed Jersey

When it comes to cycling, I don't really worry about appearances or the weight of my gear. Unlike many of my cycling brethren who bring only a photo ID, cash and a cell phone, I bring my full wallet, keys, Chapstick, energy bars, Blackberry, pen, paper (in case I need to remember something), and GPS (if I haven't mounted it on my current ride.) If I'm riding my diamond-frame road bike, toting along all that stuff works out fine – I shove it in the back pockets of my jersey. I look like a dork, but it works. However, if I'm on a recumbent, carrying all that stuff in my back pockets is a pain in the butt. Literally. Not only is it between me and the seat, I can't reach it easily either. So instead of putting it in my pockets, I end up dumping it in my Camelbak which I strap to the back of the recumbent seat. Then I'm not laying on it but I still don't have easy access while riding.

I've tried jerseys with pockets on the sides. The access is great. My gear doesn't get squished, and I don't stretch my jersey out of shape trying to move my gear to a more comfortable position. The downside to side pockets is that if you carry a lot of stuff, you might have to swagger like John Wayne to keep your arms from banging into your bulging pockets when you walk. There's nothing wrong with a macho strut, but it's not easy to pull off when you're wearing belly-hugging spandex and a cycling helmet that looks like something out of Tron. Another problem with side pockets is that if you're a bit, ahem, "width-challenged" and your pockets are full, if you sit down in a chair with armrests you run the risk of the armrests pushing the stuff right up out of the top of your pockets. It's just like emptying a toothpaste tube by squeezing the bottom end. And if you think you might look ridiculous strutting in Spandex, imagine wearing it while scrambling across the floor in an attempt retrieve your stuff before other folks step on it. Scary.

Reverse Gear's Jazzed unisex jersey has a pocket solution that works. The brightly colored jersey has two front pockets that zip shut. Awesome. There's one pocket on each side of the bottom front of the jersey. The pockets are six inches deep and run the full width of the shirt. The zippers run horizontally across the top of the pockets, opening from the middle of the jersey outward, for two-thirds of the pocket width. The jersey itself zips open from the top down to the middle of the shirt.

The "not all the way to the side-seam" pocket openings reduce the chance of you having to hang a u-turn to search for your cell phone because the pocket gaped open when you were digging to get your ChapStick. Scrambling around to pick up your stuff while wearing spandex is so much more fun when you do it in traffic. The trade-off with the smaller pocket opening is that when some of your stuff shifts over into the outer edge of the pocket you'll have to fish for it a bit. I'm a guy with fairly large hands and the pocket openings were a little snug for me but not frustratingly so. The tighter fit was worth the security.

The Jazzed's pockets are low enough on the shirt that if you have beer belly (or a donut-and-cookies-and-Snickers-bar-belly like mine), your bulky pocket cargo sits below your belly instead of wrapping around the front of it and making you look bigger than you really are. The pocket position is easily accessible and comfortable.

As for the rest of the jersey, I like it. It's bottom edge isn't elasticized so it tends to ride up a bit, but it's not bad. It never got above the waist of my cycling shorts. The shirt's fabric is a durable mid-weight mesh and the shirt looks to be well constructed.

I like the artwork too. The Jazzed is the first in Reverse Gear's series of wearable art unisex jerseys. Vergie Banks' design is her tribute to both jazz music and bicycling. It's got bright, primary colored musical instruments and a red tricycle driving down



Reverse Gear's Ironbark recumbent shorts and Jazzed jersey passed Brian's functionality test with flying – and vibrant – colors.

the road. It's a straightforward design that works for both men and women.

The jersey is available in Small (36), Medium (38), Large (40), and X-Large (42) (with the recommended chest size in inches.) Like most jerseys, they're meant to be snug.

Since it's a unisex jersey I had my wife try it on for size, too. She's curvy (guitar shaped) and says her hips are wider than average for her waist size. Normally, in a t-shirt she'd wear a men's large. My XL Jazzed jersey fit her fine. It was a little roomy in the shoulders and waist, and a bit snug around her hips. Overall she liked the shirt and said she'd wear it.

Reversed Gear's Jazzed unisex jersey is a great shirt. It's well made, comfortable, has nice art and it's pockets are truly functional. They'll keep your gear accessible and more importantly, secure. ■