

ADV MOTO

DUAL SPORT NEWS
ADVENTUREMOTORCYCLE.COM

**Top 10 Tips for
Short Riders**
Bike Set-Ups

**2018 TRIUMPH
TIGER 800**
**BETTER
THAN EVER**

**Rally Out Your
DR-Z400!**
14 Fly Upgrades

**Crossing Barriers
and Borders**
Women Breaking
Stereotypes

Shinko 705
Solid Tire,
Serious Value

**Himalayas on
A Himalayan**
Running the Royal
Enfield Against
its Namesake



Third Time Lucky
Tackling Death Valley

Metzeler Karoo Street
One Tire for Many Riders

Titus Canyon
Two-Up Adventure

Sept/Oct 2018 | No. 106

\$5.99 US / \$6.99 CAN





AcmeMoto2 Panniers

by Paul H Smith

I first came across an early prototype of the *AcmeMoto2* panniers back in 2015 while working on a story about *Cogent Dynamics* suspension in North Carolina. My immediate impression was that the concept of using *Impact Polypropylene Copolymer* boxes was brilliant—likely far more durable and waterproof than aluminum or sheet metal, and capable of handling a low-speed crash or tip-over without slowing me down.

Then I happened to meet the company's "Chief Cook and Bottle Washer" Scott Olofson at *Overland Expo East* last year. He was kind enough to send us a set for review. Scott's company, *AcmeMoto2*, is located in Fairview, North Carolina.

The *AcmeMoto2* panniers are simply a well-thought out solution for the ADVer. You'll need existing racks to attach them to as well as Scott's universal mounting plates and hardware (which also allow for a little forward or backward positioning on the racks of your bike). The process takes all of about 10 minutes and you're good to go. I mounted them on our *ADV Moto* project *DR650*, where the components allow for a relatively easy swap between the *AcmeMoto2* panniers and the *Wolfman* soft pannier system. The point is that sometimes hard bags are preferable, while other times it's soft—swapping only takes about 15 minutes.

The *AcmeMoto2* panniers are 33 liters each, a practical size that keeps the bike at a reasonable overall width. Both are identical—there's no "right" or "left" side. If any part should become damaged, Scott sells replacements, and that's yet another benefit. Most manufacturers don't think this through and getting replacement parts from them is, at best, a hassle.

The lid seals to the base with a silicon-rubber gasket that screams "waterproof"! And each pannier has a double key lock for extra security. If that's not enough, there's a pass-through from the lid to the base that could be used for an additional padlock or lockable cable should you need to fasten the panniers to an object off the bike. Yet another unique feature of the panniers are the latching handles. I've only seen them elsewhere on high-end *Yeti* coolers—they're big rubber grips that are easy to grab with riding gloves and provide a solid seal when closing the lids. And, all metal components are stainless steel, so rust or corrosion won't be an issue.

Removing the panniers is as simple as loosening a bolt with a large-grip plastic head. Getting the panniers on or off requires about 15 seconds. Two large aluminum tube handles (or tie-downs for lashing gear on top of the cases) make carrying the panniers effortless. And I couldn't help noticing the lack of leg bruises thanks to the rounded corners and the relative softness of the panniers' composition material.

Our review set also came with waxed canvas luggage, one



of which attaches to the inner side of the lid, and the other a removable satchel (the "Traveler") made specifically for an optimized fit. The luggage is optional, but don't overlook it. They're top quality products and I ended up putting the "Traveler" into daily use even when I'm off the bike.

After several months of use, about the only possible issue I have is the single bolt that fastens the panniers to the plates. The mechanism is robust and is not likely to allow the panniers to fall off in case of bolt failure, but I'd prefer two bolts for added insurance.

AcmeMoto2 is a solid alternative to aluminum or metal panniers, as well as a hybrid alternative for those who might otherwise side with soft luggage. It's great to see American innovation like this; if you're in the market for panniers, take a hard look at this option. Considering all the various products that have passed through me for review over the years, the *AcmeMoto2* panniers are definitely keepers. **MSRP:** Panniers—\$833 | Mounting plates and hardware—\$109 | Optional Medium Waxed Canvas Traveler satchel—\$139 **AcmeMoto2.com**

PROS

- Innovative design
- More crash-proof than aluminum panniers
- Super rugged
- They're gonna last!
- Every part is available for replacement

CONS

- Attachment mechanism could be more robust