

# COLD WEATHER RIDING CURE

# HOTSHIRT!

## Testing the Widder Lectric-Vest

By Rondo Talbot

Road riding types have used heated clothing for years, but apparently, no one has done much experimenting with the dirt riding crowd.

Until now, that is. We used the Lectric-Vest on an IT250 and found it a very effective way to stay warm while riding.

The Lectric-Vest is designed to run while hooked up to the terminals of a battery, but since the IT250 doesn't have a battery, we merely hooked it to the leads running into the headlight. We could have picked up a hot wire from some other source on the bike, but since the headlight was not needed (and it was easy to reach), we chose that as our power source.

Oddly enough, the power required to run the Lectric-Vest is three amps, just about the same juice required to run that headlight that wasn't doing us any good in the first place.

It's hard to imagine three amps keeping you warm on a cold day at, say, 45 miles per hour on a bike, but the Lectric-Vest did just that. In fact, we had to shut it off every once in a while. The Vest is a snug-fitting garment that we wore comfortably under a regular Griffin enduro jacket.

There are no sleeves on it, so movement was not impaired.

There's no worry about falling and getting strangled with the cord, either. We spilled the bike once while hooked up to the headlight wires and the quick-disconnect plug simply parted and let us roll free. We ended up taping the plug to the tank with duct tape, to keep it from flopping around and annoying us. When getting on and off the bike, all the rider has to do is pull the connector out. This can be done with gloved hands easily. Once, we forgot to disconnect when we got off and the connector detached without us thinking about it.

Widder also makes entire suits that are heated, as well as chaps. Most dirt bikers will be happy with just the vest alone. When you think of the blast of wind that hits your chest directly, heating the torso makes a lot of sense.

Snowmobile people also use heated garments regularly, and they enjoy their machines under conditions that would make a polar bear wince. It's about time that the dirt riders around the country learned how to keep warm and ride all year around.

Consider: You can wear a Widder

heated vest, slip a pair of Scott Handguards on the bars and plastic boots on your feet. Wear a shield on your helmet, wrap a scarf around your neck and you are equipped to go riding your bike in the middle of winter.

Now you don't have any excuses. Next winter, take the cover off that bike of yours, top up the tank, lube the chain and plug yourself in.

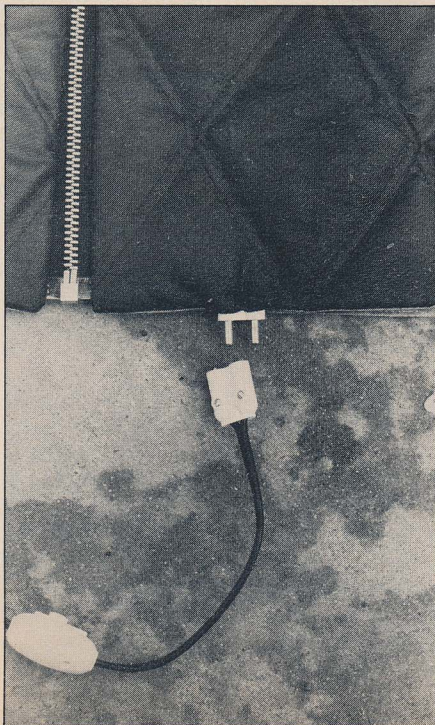
### Where to get it and what it costs

- A. LECTRIC-VEST, 36 watts. Complete with **switch** cord and battery cord ready for easy hook-up ..... \$59.95
- B. LECTRIC-VEST, 36 watts. Complete with inline **thermostat** cord and battery cord ready for easy hook-up ..... \$73.92

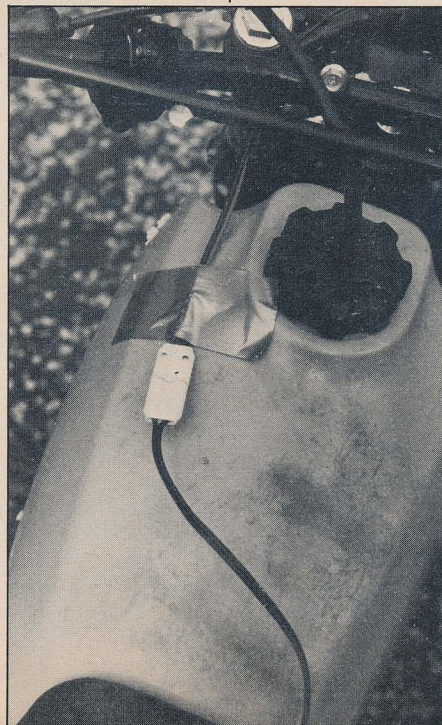
The above priced separately;  
LECTRIC-VEST ..... \$47.99  
Switch cord ..... \$5.98  
Battery cord ..... \$5.98  
Inline thermostat cord ..... \$19.95

### WIDDER ENTERPRISES

2340 Kingsbridge Lane, Oxnard,  
California 93030; (805) 985-7184. □



*If your bike has a battery, these leads go right to the terminals. On our IT250 (no battery), we hooked into the headlight wires.*



*Here's the quick disconnect plug. We fell once while hooked up and the plug parted easily.*