

# GEARING UP: Accessory Terminology

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We have so much riding ahead of us especially for the dual-purpose guys. The BMW Eco 1000 is already here, the KTM Sun City Extravaganza is happening at the same time and shortly thereafter we have the Yamaha Adventure weekend. There after is the Pongola Challenge (450km of dirt in one day) and Alfie Cox's Dual Sport weekend at Sierra Ranch in October. Subject to confirmation we will also be allowed to watch parts of the International GS Trophy happening in parts of KZN!

It's just a feast of riding opportunities let alone all of the smaller groups we all participate in. So what can we do to really make the most of these experiences?

My suggestions are as follows:

- Ride within your own limits
- Prepare your bike adequately for the type of ride (tyres, service and luggage)
- Get as much riding time as possible before the event – get riding fit!
- Understand your routes and navigation equipment and
- Get through a formal course such as that offered by Bike Talk and Country Trax.

In the next couple of issues I'll be dealing with terminology used in the accessory world – hopefully this will clarify some serious misconceptions about some of the gear we are wearing!

I have frequently found that our customer's understanding of technical terms is either extremely limited or totally inappropriate. I have used the IXS motorcycle fashion dictionary to bring the more common terms to you the reader. Thanks to Dirk du Ploy of TD Agencies who bring in the Tourmaster range.

**Kevlar (Aramid / Trevar / Twaron):** One of the most versatile polymer man-made fibres, developed on the basis of nylon technology. Aramid offers a very high tear and abrasion resistance, is heat resistant (melting point 450 degrees C), penetration resistant, resistant against soiling and resistant against most chemicals, but only UV-resistant to a limited degree. Aramid is used by DuPont to produce Kevlar, by Hoechst to produce Trevar. Aramid fibres are often used as additive for the production of helmets (thermosetting plastic). The low specific weight offers the best conditions for reducing the weight of the helmet.

**Ballistics:** Very stable ballistics nylon with e.g. 1680 D Extremely abrasion resistant.

**Cordura:** Brand name for hot air textured polyimide. The fibres are crimped, cut and newly spun.

**Denier:** Unit of measure for the thickness or the weight of a fibre or a yarn 9000m long in grams, e.g. the designation 400 D means the yarn with a length of 9000 m weighs 400g.

Until next time  
"bye for now !"

**gear-up**  
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