

## RAGS

## AS PERSONAL AS DNA

FUNCTIONAL STUFF THAT DOESN'T SAY "ME TOO"

## 1. TWIN SIX ARGYLE

Bike fashion tends to be very orthodox—or completely garish. There's never been a happy medium between the banality of black-spandex shorts and the absurdity of a neon-purple jersey splashed with the album art of the Grateful Dead. Until now. The two guys who run T6 know the history of bike culture, but also the history of graphic design. They think like artists, and the Ts and jerseys they construct pay tribute to cycling but also to the craft of making a statement while riding. Yes, "craft," because even if you want to look iconoclastic in your Argyle top, you want people to think your pose is different, not doltish. At the same time, Twin Six garb is pragmatic; the 100 percent polyester Argyle gets an antimicrobial treatment; long, seven-eighths-length front zipper; and three deeper-than-usual back pockets, big enough to stash all your on-trail needs. The fit also strikes a balance—midway between anorexic World Cup XC geek trim and club-cut blousy. Don't dig the Argyle? Don't worry. The T6 guys constantly refresh their styles, so your statement jersey isn't going to look like anything your pals wear. **PRICE: \$70 SIZES: S-XXXL INFO: [twinsix.com](http://twinsix.com)—Michael Frank**



## 2. FOSKA BONES HI-VIS TRAINING JACKET

Created in England, the Foska Bones is as much a statement of a certain type of style as one of function. Constructed from polyester with what Foska calls the Respira membrane, the piece is windproof, water resistant and highly breathable. Foska describes the cut as "sporty," which means it's form-fitting but not overly tight. It has the requisite three pockets on the back and a long tail to catch trail crud. The jacket's true beauty lies in its graphics: the anatomically correct skeleton (and for humor, the skeleton of a fish in your belly) is printed in hi-vis Reflec that dazzles brightly when hit by headlights, making it a great choice for rides that start on or bisect roads. Additionally, this jacket has tougher material on the arms and torso so it won't scuff or tear when snagged by trees or thrashed in an endo. And the zipper feels burly in your hand, like it's gonna go the distance. On the dirt it's a fashion and function charmer. Take it to Le Disco after a day on the resort trails and it'll be a standout under the strobe as well. **PRICE: \$145 SIZES: XS-XXXL INFO: [foska.com](http://foska.com)—M.C.**



## 3. UNDER THE WEATHER MESSENTIAL

Toronto-based messenger-bag maker Under the Weather was started in 2000 in an apartment in Amsterdam. Today, founder Anais Fritzlan and her husband, Sam Houston, still construct all of the bags themselves. Made of sturdy Cordura, the 16x14x8-inch Messential has a front pocket; a small, hidden side pocket; a removable tool pouch; and long, strong hook-and-loop strips that let you close the bag tightly no matter how full it is. You get to choose your colors, right down to the thread—even if that means pairing fluorescent pink nylon ("very popular in Japan right now," Houston says), with turquoise vinyl. Optional touches include a protective boot on the bottom (shown), a back pad or a double interior liner. Custom orders take about 30 days; some stock bags are also available.



**PRICE: \$145 (base); \$158 (as tested) INFO: [under-the-weather.ca](http://under-the-weather.ca)—Emily Furia**