

Things to hang from your belt for bikers who like to let it all hang out.



Be it a wallet, multi-pliers, Maglight or key holder, we see a lot of bikers with things hanging from their belts. We don't care what non-bikers do, but I think it true to say that in the bikers world, it is normal to attach things to your belt ; things that are used often, useful things, there is no better way to carry them.

Here is something unusual. When the lid of this case is opened, the weight of a pair of multi-pliers automatically causes them to appear. It is made of saddle leather and the interior is divided into two sections, the top half carrying a set of screwdriver bits for the pliers.

"I suppose you could say that I just like to let it all hang out", says Hiraku Sato, who made this case. He is recognized as the leading leather worker on the Japanese biker scene today. When he leaves for work, his belt is filled with various items for its whole length. On the right side there is a cigarette case with a pocket for his Zippo lighter, then working leftwards

is his knife case, pliers case, oil and ashtray case, and finally his key holder. To listen to him, you would think it must be very heavy to wear, but when I put this to him, he replied : "Basically I am just lazy. As long as something is hanging from my belt, I will know where it is. The things I need are always close to hand, it is convenient. Once you start hanging things from your belt, you will never look back".

He says that he used to have a case for his mobile phone.

"The trouble with mobiles is that the models change so quickly. If you use one until it breaks it will be impossible to find the same model again. Therefore, even though the cases I make may last a lifetime, you know that this is not to be. It is not fair on the case".

He explained that even though he no longer uses his old mobile case, he still looks after it. People who like to let it all hang out treat the things on their belt seriously.



This case contains an ashtray on the right and an oil container on the left. They are fitted with strings to prevent them falling out.



Gerber pliers with the driver bits held in order. This is seriously heavy.

As you can see, when the catch is released, the weight of the pliers flips them out ready for action.



1976, Born in Japan  
Yeah, I'm made in Japan.



The front of his vest is covered with fifty-yen coins. At first glance he looks like a punk rocker, or somebody wearing chain mail or one of those things they put on the top of high-rise buildings to scare the crows away.

Moreover, it is hot and heavy.

What is the story behind it? Surely things would never have got this far unless he was fanatical about something. We asked him about it.

"I wanted to stand out. I could probably think up some clever reason for it, but the real truth is that I just wanted to attract attention".

Well, there is nothing like a straightforward answer, but this was so simple that I was at a loss as to what to say.

"I suppose you could say that the reason why I use Japanese coins is that I am Japanese. You see all these other people with American coins on their clothes, as if these were something special, well I decided to use Japanese coins! Five-yen coins also have a hole in the center, but they are made of brass so they're no good. In the movie, {Jingi Naki Tatakai} one of the characters makes a bullet proof vest by fixing lots of five-yen coins on it, but fifty-yen coins are silver colored, they make me stand out more".

For whatever reason, he made it and continues to work on it, although what his means, I do not know. Words fail me.

I was still in shock when the owner added brightly,

"I am not finished yet, I am still looking for more coins. This is an ongoing project!"



All the coins used are dated 1976, the same year that the owner was born.

The front of his vest is leather, the rear denim. This means that the majority of coins are on the front. In order to fix them on, he removed the lining of the vest and sewed each one on separately - he has put a lot of work into it. As the owner only uses 1976 coins, it is difficult to find new ones, the front of the vest is extremely heavy and it is unbelievably hot in the summer, but despite all these drawbacks, he is very happy with it.



His medicine bag has also had the treatment and he intends to work on his wallet too.

