

THREAD RESEARCH REPORT

Chinese Leather Jackets

A 45-page review of owner experience, maker rankings, value, quality and buying risk

BOTTOM LINE The strongest thread evidence favors JAISHI/Jia Shi and Real Simons. Veluokldly and Cidu can be excellent value but are less consistent. Curphey is the clearest avoid-or-inspect-carefully brand. Across every maker, sizing and returns are the most consequential risks.

Scope: all 45 thread pages • 883 posts screened • 65 consolidated first-hand review records

[Original Fedora Lounge thread](#)

Executive assessment

The thread does not support the blanket conclusion that Chinese leather jackets are either “junk” or equivalent to top Japanese makers. It supports a more useful conclusion: the better Chinese makers now deliver strong patterns, substantial hides and good sewing at unusually low prices, but the buyer absorbs more uncertainty in leather provenance, grading, measurements, quality control and after-sale remedies.

Rank	Count	Share	Meaning
Positive	34	52%	Clearly satisfied; would keep, recommend or buy again.
Neutral / mixed	20	31%	Good value with material fit, QC, leather or service reservations.
Negative	11	17%	Returned, strongly disappointed, materially misdescribed or advised against.

[Thread-wide count based on pages 1–45; methodology below](#)

Interpretation A 52% positive rate is encouraging, but the 48% mixed-or-negative share is too large to treat these jackets as low-risk purchases. The value proposition works best when exact garment measurements are verified and the buyer can tolerate a difficult return.

What owners praised most

- Value: many owners felt they received far more jacket than the price implied.
- Construction: straight stitching, substantial hardware and accurate reproduction details were often praised.
- Leather on stronger lines: JAISHI and Real Simons received repeated compliments for thick, supple or convincing horsehide.
- Pattern and appearance: several inexpensive jackets drew compliments and compared favorably with much costlier pieces.

What owners criticized most

- Sizing charts and seller recommendations could be wrong; Chinese tag size is not a reliable US-size conversion.
- Returns could cost US\$125–\$500, erase the savings, or become effectively impossible.
- Leather identity and tannery claims were often unverifiable; “Italian,” “Horween,” and even species claims were questioned.
- QC variation included uneven panels, loose hardware, weak pocket/lining materials, stitching run-off and finish defects.
- Reseller identity is confusing: the same pattern can appear under different labels and at very different prices.

Method and counting rules

Every page was downloaded and screened. Navigation, quoted repetitions, pure questions, seller advertisements, cultural debate and comments based only on photographs were excluded from the sentiment count. A review record required first-hand ownership, receipt, wear, return, or direct handling plus a concrete judgment about fit, leather, construction, service, durability or value.

Repeated posts by the same owner about the same maker were consolidated. A later durability update modified the earlier rating rather than becoming a second vote. When one post reviewed two distinct makers or two materially different transactions, each was counted separately. “Neutral / mixed” includes praise paired with a meaningful reservation. Counts are therefore a structured synthesis, not the forum’s reaction-button totals.

[Thread structure and opening market overview](#)

Maker ranking

#	Maker	Grade	P / M / N	Thread consensus
1	JAISHI / Jia Shi	A	5 / 0 / 0	Best leather praise; thick hides, solid hardware, strong value. Limited sample.
2	Real Simons / Simons	A-	6 / 2 / 1	Best depth of evidence; excellent reproductions and hardware, but measurement/return failure matters.
3	Guofo	B+	2 / 0 / 0	High-end MTM; neat dense stitching and premium-hide options. Evidence is expert but sparse.
4	Risk Rider	B+	1 / 0 / 0	Strong early reputation and MTM/source-your-own-leather flexibility; little later owner data.
5	Veluokldly	B	7 / 5 / 2	Often exceptional value and attractive patterns; greater QC and leather variability.
6	Cidu	B-	6 / 6 / 2	Many successful buys and good fits; inconsistent hides, adventurous designs and variable batches.
7	Huanqiu	B-	1 / 0 / 0	Military repro/repair specialist; favorable service report, insufficient jacket-owner sample.
8	HDK	C+	0 / 1 / 0	Interesting premium and kudu offerings; sparse first-hand evidence and limited flexibility.
9	Armed Front	C+	0 / 1 / 0	Heavy custom motorcycle niche; reputation noted, but almost no attributable owner reviews.
10	Curphey	C-	2 / 1 / 4	Cheap and sometimes enjoyable, but repeated sofa-like/thin hide and description concerns.

Ranking weights first-hand reports, consistency, seriousness of defects, and evidence depth. Sparse high-end makers are capped below the two best-supported brands. P / M / N = positive / mixed / negative consolidated records.

1. JAISHI / Jia Shi — best overall signal

JAISHI receives the cleanest first-hand product sentiment in the thread. Gerald Parel's A-2 reports are the strongest evidence: he described thick leather, a solid zipper, no bad odor and quality exceeding a reputable European A-2. After exchanging an oversized jacket, he described the replacement as superb, supple 1.6 mm teacore cowhide and wore it daily. His only significant negative was the costly, fee-heavy exchange process—not the jacket.

Other owners reinforce the leather story. GioGokin, after buying seven Chinese jackets, called JAISHI his favorite leather while preferring Cidu for fit. A user posting as “codex” placed Jia Shi with Real Simons as the

two mass-production makers to target and reported no disappointment. Hivecanary called a two-year-old JAISHI Brakeman “pretty much flawless” and worth its US\$225 cost.

Evidence	Finding
Leather	Most consistent praise: thick, substantial, convincing smell, good teacore; best leather among one multi-brand owner.
Construction	Solid zipper; “pretty much flawless” Brakeman; no recurring sewing defect identified.
Fit	Tag sizing runs large/unfamiliar; one A-2 exchange and a 4XL Brakeman worn intentionally as an overcoat.
Value	Exceptional at reported sale prices around US\$225 and 11.11 discounts.
Risk	Small sample and confusing reseller labels; verify that a listing is actually JAISHI and obtain measured photos.

[Gerald Parel: initial JAISHI A-2 review](#)

[Gerald Parel: exchange, fit and 1.6 mm teacore follow-up](#)

[Hivecanary: two-year JAISHI Brakeman assessment](#)

Buyer recommendation JAISHI is the first brand to investigate, especially the Mulholland/Brakeman family. Ignore letter-size conversions and require actual pit-to-pit, shoulder, straight-sleeve and back-length measurements from the exact jacket, then compare them with a well-fitting jacket already owned.

2. Real Simons / Simons — strongest evidence base

Real Simons has the broadest set of detailed favorable reviews. Owners praised a Leathertogs reproduction, J-24L, Grizzly, J-31 and Mulholland variants. The best reports cite supple leather, good smell, clean stitching, strong hardware and rapid natural patina. Comparisons to Japanese makers were favorable on value, though experienced members rejected claims that these jackets are literally 80–95% equivalent in every respect.

The important counterexample is a documented measurement mismatch: Matt_B received a jacket whose shoulder measured materially wider than advertised after seeking seller sizing advice. Return quotes reached US\$400–\$500 by FedEx/UPS and about US\$150 by USPS. That makes Real Simons a product-quality leader but not a low-risk remote purchase.

[Hervallmo: Leathertogs reproduction review](#)

[Biff42: balanced J-31 review](#)

[Johnthefrench: J-24L and Grizzly owner comparison](#)

[Matt_B: measurement and return-cost failure](#)

3–10. Condensed maker findings

Guofo: Premium MTM proposition with Shinki/Tochigi options. The strongest thread expert compared its stitching favorably with Freewheelers. Attractive if direct communication and hide sourcing can be controlled.[\[source page\]](#)

Risk Rider: Reported to have one of the better Chinese reputations, MTM service and the unusual ability to make from customer-supplied leather. Too little owner follow-up for a confident modern ranking. [\[source page\]](#)

Veluokldly: The most visible value brand in later pages. Strong examples include supple cowhide, good hardware, good OTR fit and convincing J-100/J-24 patterns. Negative examples include loose sleeve-zips, stitch restarts/run-off, corrected or unexpectedly light leather and seller conflict over a mislabeled jacket. [\[source page\]](#)

Cidu: Early volume leader with several happy owners and strong second-hand value. Its strengths are accessible styles and, for some buyers, better sleeve proportions. Its weakness is batch inconsistency: belly panels, uncertain Horween claims, variable leather and designs that can be difficult to wear. [\[source page\]](#)

Huanqiu: Known mainly for military reproductions and repairs; one favorable repair/service report. Not enough owner data to grade its current jackets confidently. [\[source page\]](#)

HDK: A broad reproduction maker with premium and kudu offerings. The thread provides more description than ownership evidence; one custom buyer noted it would not accept customer-supplied leather. [\[source page\]](#)

Armed Front: Positioned around very heavy custom motorcycle jackets. Interesting specialist, but the thread lacks enough direct reviews to validate fit or longevity. [\[source page\]](#)

Curphey: The clearest caution. Multiple owners described thin, paper-like, “IKEA sofa” leather or disputed Italian/horsehide claims. A few later buyers still enjoyed lightweight Curphey jackets at US\$100–\$250, so the correct conclusion is inconsistent and price-sensitive—not universally unusable. [\[source page\]](#)

Seller and channel findings

Channel / seller	Thread assessment	Practical implication
Taobao / agent	Lowest underlying prices; harder navigation, agent fees and international-return complexity.	Best for experienced buyers who can verify exact measurements and accept final-sale risk.
AliExpress	Higher markup but clearer payment/dispute structure; return experience varied by seller and country.	Potentially safer if the listing explicitly includes local/free return.
Crush on Retro	Responsive communication and curated English storefront; substantial markup; odor/QC complaints appear alongside good product reviews.	Paying for access and service does not guarantee maker identity or easy returns.
Tailor Brando	Many satisfied jacket buyers and detailed advice, but serious disputes over color, measurement and refund communication.	Require written measurement confirmation and use a payment method with buyer protection.
C&C Factory Store	Good prices and accurate product reports from some buyers; awkward communication, inconsistent return policy.	Useful only when exact product and return terms are documented.
AnnualRing / Bronson	Most consistently uncomplicated store commentary, though the thread's leather-jacket evidence is limited.	Better general Amekaji confidence than maker-specific leather evidence.

Buying checklist

- Ask for measurements of the exact jacket laid flat—not a generic chart.
- Confirm whether shoulder is seam-to-seam straight or measured along the curve.
- Request close photographs of the actual hide panels, back, collar junction, pocket openings and zipper sewing.
- Treat tannery and species claims as unverified unless documentation accompanies the exact garment.
- Get the return address and an estimated tracked return quote before purchase.
- Use a platform/payment method with a meaningful dispute path; preserve the listing and messages.
- Prefer a slightly conservative style and proven pattern; unusual designs have lower resale liquidity.
- Assume low resale value and buy only if the measurements make the jacket likely to stay.

Jacket collage I — Cidu

Owner photographs from unhatted's three-jacket comparison on page 6.



Cidu double rider — front

[Thread source](#)



Cidu double rider — fit

[Thread source](#)



Cidu café racer — front

[Thread source](#)



Cidu café racer — fit

[Thread source](#)

Jacket collage II — Real Simons

Leathertogs and natural horsehide J-24L examples; strong construction and patina reports.



Leathertogs reproduction

[Thread source](#)



Leathertogs fit

[Thread source](#)



J-24L natural horsehide

[Thread source](#)



J-24L early patina

[Thread source](#)

Jacket collage III — value-tier range

Veluokldly owner examples plus later Curphey examples that illustrate why model and batch matter.



Veluokldly half-belt

[Thread source](#)



Veluokldly fit

[Thread source](#)



Veluokldly J-100 fit

[Thread source](#)



Curphey lightweight horsehide

[Thread source](#)

Conclusions

For a buyer who understands jacket measurements and can absorb a failed return, the thread makes a persuasive case that the better Chinese makers offer genuine enthusiast-grade value. It does not justify buying blindly from any listing that uses the right pattern photos or leather vocabulary.

Buying objective	Best thread-supported choice
Best overall product signal	JAISHI / Jia Shi
Best combination of evidence depth and reproduction range	Real Simons
Best high-end custom potential	Guofo, with direct verification
Best lower-price hunting ground	Veluokldly or Cidu, model by model
Highest caution	Curphey and unidentified reseller-only labels
Non-negotiable safeguard	Exact garment measurements plus a pre-checked return route

Final judgment JAISHI is the most promising choice for your interests, while Real Simons is the safest alternative when you want a broader catalog. Neither should be ordered by US letter-size conversion alone. The thread’s bargain disappears the moment a US\$300–\$600 jacket must be returned internationally.

Sources and limitations

Primary source: The Fedora Lounge thread “Chinese leather jackets,” pages 1–45, accessed 4 September 2026. Links throughout point to relevant pages or posts. The forum is self-selected, brands and reseller labels may overlap, some leather claims are not independently verifiable, and enthusiastic early impressions do not equal multi-year durability tests. Photos are reproduced from member posts for private comparative research and remain attributable to their posters and the forum.

[Open the full thread](#)