



- Home
- Gear
- Reviews
- Travel
- On The Hill
- Gallery
- Routes
- Forum
- Shop

Search
 Find
 Site Sections...
 Categories...
 Manufacturers...

Home » News » Gear features

Friday 13 February 2009 | [Help](#)

More from OM

GEAR FEATURES 22 / 01 / 09

Site highlights



Osprey Exos Evaluation - The Results

By [Jon](#)

Find out what five lucky OM members made of Ospreys brand new Exos 46 pack.

Gear features in association with



In late 2008, **Osprey Packs** gave five lucky OUTDOORSmagic members the chance to use and report back on their new £130 **Exos 46 lightweight backpacking pack** before it even hit the shops. And now as the test period draws to an end, we thought you might like a quick look at what they made of it.

Free weekly newsletter!

Join OUTDOORSmagic now

Members can use the forum and gallery, receive a weekly newsletter and are eligible to win great prizes!

name
 surname
 e-mail address

[why join?](#)

Shopping

More online outdoor shops! Are you a retailer?

- [Winwood Outdoor](#)
- [Camping World](#)
- [The Complete Outdoors](#)
- [Ellis Brigham Mountain Sports](#)
- [Outdoor Gear](#)
- [Outdoor kit](#)
- [Jackson Sports](#)
- [LD Mountain Centre](#)
- [Taunton Leisure](#)
- [Springfield Camping and Outdoors Centre](#)
- [Cave and Crag](#)
- [Really Good Supplies](#)
- [Breaking Free](#)
- [Outdoor Megastore](#)
- [The Outdoor Shop](#)
- [Snow + Rock](#)



The idea was that the users would post their take on the new pack as soon as they received it, then follow up with real world reports once they'd had the chance to use the Exos on the hill. We've already summarised some of the initial user opinions in [this](#)

Members Logon

Email:
 Password:
[forgot your password?](#)

Article search

Sponsored Articles

[Páramo Product of the Month: Páramo Ladies' and Men's Velez Adventure Light Smocks](#)

sponsored by Páramo

Support our partners



-  [Alpkit](#)
-  [Stewardsons Outdoor Clothing](#)

Travel Partners

Travel Partners









-  [Explore!](#)

eVent technology



Latest Reviews

 7258 Total Reviews

-  [Raichle Degree Lite GTX](#)
by Eoin Brunton
 -  [Coleman Avior X2](#)
by Tent Peg
 -  [Thinsulate Gloves](#)
by marx
 -  [Rab Vapour-Rise Trail Smock](#)
by LaptopAcidXperi
 -  [Mountain Equipment Matrix Salopette](#)
by Ian Roberts 4
 -  [Rab Vapour-Rise Trail Smock](#)
by Rich Jones
 -  [Montane Extreme Smock](#)
by Frank Cook
 -  [Trek Mates Cairngorm](#)
[Gore-Tex Gaiter](#)
by mickym
- » [Loads More Reviews](#)

Gallery Rated Image



Caradon
by Jason Opie

[article](#) and shown you some of the neat details that make the pack stand out [here](#).

What's Different About The Exos

The Exos 46 weighs just 990 grammes, but unlike most ultra-lightweight packs, it has a 6061-T6 aluminium frame for stability with heavy loads and die-cut Biostretch EVA foam for added comfort and ventilation on hipbelt and harness, plus a fully-ventilated back panel.

In other words, it aims to provide more support than comparable packs. Weight has been systematically slashed throughout, but not at the expense of features. That means super-lightweight fabrics, mesh pockets and perforated EVA foam for harness and hip-belt plus miniaturise buckles, (tiny)tape and features where appropriate. There's also Osprey's neat pole storage 'Stow On The Go' system.

For more background information see this Osprey YouTube clip:

What Did Our Testers Make Of The Pack?

You can read the full story on this [forum thread](#), but at 363 posts long, it might take you a while, so to give you a quick idea, we've whisked through it and extracted a few opinions from our testers Paul Cummings, Jon Yale, Richard Laird, Tommy Martin and Andy Hayes.

You can also find some of their opinions [here](#) on the review system.

In The Beginning

It's fair to say that all our testers were impressed with the weight of the Exos, Paul Cummings took the time to weigh it on his kitchen scales at 988 grammes, liked the hip-pockets and thought that although the 'Tiny Tape' compression tape looked thin it also seemed strong, though Jon was a little concerned, initially, by the thinness of the hip-belt and buckle.

Andy wasn't sure that the thin-looking shoulder straps would cope with heavier loads, but loved the big front pocket and top-loading configuration. He also had doubts about the thin compression straps.

In Use

Jon's initial impressions with a daypack load were favourable. It carried 'at least as well as my Atmos 25' he said. He liked the multiple pockets, and Stow On The Go system, but wasn't sure the lightweight hip-belt buckle was 'up to it'. Loaded up with 12 kilos of camping kit, he says, 'it felt fine' and he was pleasantly surprised that it all fitted in the pack.

In later testing a horse tried to eat the straps and fixings on the back of his pack 'a bit chewed now' he observed. The buckles, he thinks, can be a little fiddly.

Lairdo was again impressed with how close the mesh panel sits to the back and how well the bioform hip-belt takes loads. He took it for a hammer over Helvellyn in winter conditions - below - and posted some detailed observations with a full 13.2 kilo load. He was impressed with the vented back which allowed his back to dry well and found it a 'stable and comfortable' carry.



Springfield Camping
Laser Competition

TERRA
NOVA EQUIPMENT

£187.00 available in GREEN or RED

"Record Breaking Lightweight Tent"
FREE NEXT DAY DELIVERY

VOTE

What mapping systems do you use (in addition to printed maps)

- Mapping software (e.g. Anquet)
- GPS
- Both mapping software and GPS
- Neither- just printed maps
- Not even printed maps

Ask Richard Gear

 727 Total Questions



[What kit for running in Mongolia in winter?](#)

[Salewa Alunal Step In Crampons - rigid C3 or semi-rigid C2?](#)

[Which alpine / Himalayan mountain boot in a 43.5?](#)

[Which Grivel crampons to use with Scarpa Manta GSB boots?](#)

[» More Questions](#)

He also liked the pole carrying facility finding that it didn't interfere with normal movement and loved the stretch pocket for rapid clothing stowage. On the down side, he found the side stuff pockets a little tight at the top and the mini compression straps were fiddly with gloves, though they work well. Overall he praised the fabric strength and build quality and found it a very stable and comfortable all day carry, a good well ventilated back system when packed correctly, and a host of innovative features that are useful rather than gimmicky.'

Paul thought 'comfort was superb' with little air gap and excellent movement when he turned or leaned. On his first big walk with 'full winter kit' including, er, snowshoes, he was impressed with Tardis-like kit-wallowing ability. He found the sac very comfy, but still sitting a bit high for him and overall simply 'didn't think about it when walking - No digs, no sore spots, no back ache, nothing. Really reaching for criticism.'

The back system he called 'the most comfortable I have used'. He did though, question the security of the side mesh stuff pockets, though Tommy said he'd found them fine.

Tommy and some of the others, thought the pack seemed initially to sit too high on the hips, but when loaded up 'seems to sit just right'. He also noted the stretch built into the EVA straps and belt. He thought the hip-belt and back carried the weight well and liked the pull to tighten configuration on the belt. He also liked the pockets and thought that while the tape was thin, it was probably well up to the job.

On his first mountain day out, he found the Exos as comfortable as other, weightier packs, liked the pole stowage device and the vented back and found that while his shoulders ached after a while, it was easy to transfer the load to the hip-belt.

Andy kicked off with a supermarket trip and found that once loaded, the weight did move the hip-belt downwards into a lower and more natural position, he also liked the air-gap back and found the pack comfortable with about 10 kilos of groceries in place, he still had doubts about the thin shoulder straps however.

He did confess to loving the pockets on the outside of the pack and liked details like the reflective Osprey logo for night safety. With a 14 kilo load, he found the pack stable and was also happy with the security of the pockets. He also confessed that while he was originally going to sell the pack on at the end of the test period, after using it, he was rapidly changing his mind.

Overall

'Brilliant bag for four massive mountain walks in Torridon. The Exos 46 stored all my winter gear, it's comfort and weight bearing performance paid dividends and it's light weight helped me complete my walks with less physical exertion than if I'd used my heavy, sweaty and weighty over-engineered Karrimor Alpiniste 45 instead!' - **Lairdo**

'The Exos performed flawlessly. It is now named Jaffa due to the orangey bit in the middle! It sat on the hips nicely and the pain that I had in my chest was due to breathing in the cold air on the first part of the walk.' - **Andy Hayes**

'In use, I must say I struggle for much to say about the pack. This is actually quite a compliment as it means I just did not think about it when walking. No digs, no sore spots, no back ache, nothing. Really reaching for criticism, I would agree with others that the shoulder straps should be wider, but as Osprey have already said this will be the case on the production models, it shows they are on the ball.' - **Paul Cummings**

We'll have an OM editorial review up shortly, but overall, the OMers who tested the Exos were more than favourably impressed with the weight, build quality, features and carry of the pack. the thinness of the shoulders straps was mentioned a few times, but they are being widened for production packs which will be in store in late January 2009.

The only other common gripe was that the small buckles were fiddly with gloved hands and the pack colours were also questioned.

More Osprey information at www.ospreypacks.com



Gear features in association with

Bookmark this Printer friendly version

Want to send this article to a friend? Please [join here](#)

Discuss this article, 1 of 373 messages, [read more:](#)

Jon Doran

Posted: 31/10/08 14:14:44 44

We're looking for five OMers to evaluate Osprey's new lightweight Exos 46 pack now, two months before it appears in the shops. All you have to do is use the pack and come back tell us how you get on with it, simple 😊

Full details in the article at the top of the page.

[Read more...](#)

Read member reviews:

[Rucksacks](#) (261 products)

Related images:



Related articles:**Osprey Exos 46 Tested**

We check out Osprey's latest - light weight but capable of carrying a load in comfort...

**Osprey Exos Evaluation - Testing Begins**

Five lucky OMers are trying out Osprey's super lightweight Exos pack, see what they think of it so far.

**Evaluate Osprey's New Lightweight Pack**

We're looking for five OMers to test Osprey's innovative 2009 Exos 46 pack right now...

**The Exos Has Landed...**

It's not out until 2009, but we have our paws on Osprey's new lightweight pack right now...

**Close Up - Osprey Mutant Pack**

Up close and personal with the features on Osprey's new technical mountain pack.

**Osprey's New Technical Pack Landing Now!**

The latest from Osprey is the Mutant 38 mountain pack in the shops shortly.

**New Lightweight Osprey Pack Scoop!**

Award-winning packs weigh less but without sacrificing comfort, features or load-carrying punch.

**Osprey Kestrel 38 - Tested**

We check out Osprey's latest all-round mountain daypack.

**Osprey Reinvents Trekking Pole Stowage**

It's called Stow-On-The-Go and it does exactly what it says on the can...

**Osprey 2008 - Sneak Preview**

A lower-end Talon and a new range of load haulers hit the shelves next year ...

**Osprey Talon 44 Tested**

Osprey's new lightweight pack aimed at fast-moving mountain folk - is it up to speed?

**Osprey Announces 70 Per-Cent Recycled Packs**

We've had recycled fleece, but from July, Osprey launches recycled day packs.

**Packs From Over There Over Here...**

The importers of Mountain Hardwear are set to bring in top notch Osprey packs from Colorado

Join Now**About OUTDOORSmagic**

- About Us
- Privacy Policy
- Terms and Conditions

RSS**Contact Us**

- Support
- Advertise with us
- FAQ
- Retailers: free site review

Affiliates

- Take our news for free
- RSS Feed

Magicalia Digital Publishing**Active network**

- AVReview
- BIKEmagic
- GOLFMagic
- OUTDOORSmagic
- RoadCyclingUK

Parenting network

- Junior
- Practical Parenting
- ThinkBaby
- Full Portfolio

^ Top of Page

- Visordown

© 1999-2009 [Magicalia Ltd.](#) 