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Featuring: Viper 13

URL: <http://tinyurl.com/4kmhrp9>

What would your answer be to this question? "Do you have the latest Osprey pack?" The obvious answer is, "No, but I'd like to!" This is the way we got Osprey's new Viper 13, a slim and efficient pack perfect for mountain biking, quick hikes, and a wide variety of other outdoor adventures where you need a modest amount of storage and three liters of water. The Viper 13 is a good-looking bag, which is typical of Osprey; and with its small size and usability, it has already gotten a lot of use. I am repeatedly reminded that Osprey's magnetic bite valve is the best interpretation of the magnetic locking feature among hydration packs. While other manufacturers have taken a stab at keeping the bite valve in a useful position using clips or magnets, Osprey outdoes them all.



The Viper 13 holds just enough for a quick burn—some bare essentials, such as tools while biking or sunscreen and bug repellent for hikers. On a quick romp through our local urban wilderness, the only things I toted were my keys, wallet, phone, and water for myself, wife, and daughter. With the compression straps cinched tight, the pack was slim enough on my back I didn't feel foolish, but neither were my pockets filled with these odds and ends. For a slightly longer hike, I would have easy access to more storage for anything I really need just by loosening the straps. The Viper 13 is just barely big enough for everything you would need on a basic day hike—knife or multi-tool, sunscreen and glasses, blanket, some munchies, map and compass, insulation layer, and lighter. The Viper 13 retails for \$94, and for its manufacturing quality and versatility, I think this is a reasonable amount to pay for the Osprey pack...especially considering that Osprey offers their All Mighty Guarantee: Osprey will repair any damage or defect in your product, no matter the reason or age. Now that's commitment to customer service!

My one caveat is a minor gripe with the hydration bladder's fill opening—it is too far from the upper edge of the bladder to allow easy filling from the refrigerator water filter spout. Check out the viper 13 and Osprey's other amazing gear on their website: www.ospreypacks.com and be sure to visit them on Facebook and Twitter.

