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Featuring: Viper 10

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I've had quite a few hydration packs over the years. So when Kurt said he had a new pack for me to review I was expecting something a little bit better and maybe a little bit nicer than my current pack. This one is A LOT better and A LOT nicer than my current pack. In fact, I'm pretty sure this one is much better in every regard.

The pack in question is a nice yellow-orange [Osprey Viper 10](#). The first thing I noticed is that they seem to have used about 15 different types of fabric. Instead of just picking up whatever was on the shelf at the factory in the right color, they really put some effort into picking the best technical fabric for the specific case. As a mechanical engineer who has done a bit of industrial design implementation, this is the kind of detail I really love because to me it's the difference between a small bag with arm straps that you stuff a water bladder in, and a real designed hydration pack. It's nice to see a product where an up-close inspection just reinforces the appearance of quality. One of my favorite features is the magnetic clip for the bite valve. What the thoughtful folks at Osprey did is put a magnet on the sternum strap, and put one on the valve. The next thing I loved about this pack is the reservoir. Other things I liked were the well thought-out straps to keep everything tightened down so it doesn't flop around while riding. The stretchy back pocket is awesome and easily fits an extra 29er tube and my vest, knee-warmers, a couple cliff bars, etc. Pockets are well thought out (no surprise here) with a smaller one for cell phone and sunglasses, and a separately accessible bigger one for tools, pump, emergency. They couldn't even leave the zippers alone and put these cool injection molded loop things on the nylon loops that keep them open for easy grabbing. You probably think I'm a little bit crazy for talking about the zipper pulls but seriously folks, these are awesome!

If your current pack is at the end of its life and you want something new, I highly recommend the Osprey. It does come in some different sizes if you want something bigger for big epic rides or you want something a bit smaller. I know I've listed a lot of positives up above but I'm having a hard time coming up with a real negative.

