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Gossip Column

Featuring: Variant 37

URL: <http://tinyurl.com/6n8qdab>



Whether on rock or ice, the Osprey Variant 37 is all the pack you need!

Since I like to ice climb just a *wee bit* more than rock climb, the Variant 37 was a pretty obvious choice for me. The exterior features easy storage of not only your ice tools, but your crampons as well. The exterior crampon pouch was the stellar upgraded feature I got with my new Variant 37, and I absolutely think it's the best part about the pack. The size of the Variant 37 is perfect for stowing all the extra layers I need to bring with not only for climbing in the park, but in Canada's much colder weather as well. It is no problem to have two water bottles, lunch, three extra layers, two extra pairs of gloves, along with ice screws, draws & helmet comfortably stuffed in the pack. If you also want to get a 60m rope into the pack, well then you may want to upgrade to the 52L, but I don't mind carrying it on the top, just underneath the lid since there's a perfect strap for that there, too.

So, even though Osprey makes packs specifically for rock climbing, I actually prefer to continue using my Variant 37 year-round. Why? Not only because it's so comfortable and the hipbelt is absolutely right-on for my torso but...(drumroll please) the crampon pouch is the perfect place to stuff flip-flops for cragging days, or even a guidebook for multi-pitch and/or route finding days. I actually love that feature, as silly as it sounds, but it's actually quite practical. Let's say, for example, you're at Indian Creek and you don't want to hike up to the base in sandals. Right on, I am with you. However, after jamming and twisting your feet in cracks for hours on end, a little bit of flip-flop time can feel like absolute heaven, and it's just the perfect storage space. It's also really nice to have the guidebook easily accessible on the outside of the pack in the perfect spot for your partner to pull out and consult - sometimes quite frequently when you're in an unfamiliar area!

[I should mention that the Variant 37 capacity is a perfect fit for rock climbing too - when I'm carrying ropes it's no trouble to fit two 60m doubles inside along with all of my other assorted gear, and my partner Tonya is able to easily fit her large trad rack into her own (identical!) 37L along with the rest of the day's climbing supplies.]

The only issue I have with the Variant 37 is that lots of us Chicks have the exact same pack (literally) so I put a piece of (pretty) duct tape on mine just to decrease the amount of random goodies I'd sometimes find in my lid 😊

