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October 18, 2012

Featuring: Raptor 10

Monthly Traffic: 5,142

URL: <http://tinyurl.com/9uhnl3e>



Recently we spent some time at Interbike looking at various new hydration packs and the Raptor 10 from Osprey was one of those that caught our eye. Now we have a pre-production Osprey Raptor 10 to tell you about. Osprey makes three models in the Raptor line up now including the smaller, less featured Raptor 6, the 10, and the larger Raptor 14. MSRP on these is as follows- Raptor 6 - \$109, Raptor 10 - \$119, and the Raptor 14 - \$129. There will be a few color choices, but we received the red one to review. The Raptor 10 is a 610 Cubic Inch/10 liter pack that weighs 1lb 6oz without the reservoir.

As stated in the Interbike post, I have an earlier version of the Raptor 10 that I have been flogging for a few years. It is my "go-to" pack when I ride, because it is the right size, has good accessibility for tools, gear, and my camera, and holds plenty of fluids. There were some things I perceived as flaws in the earlier Raptor design, so I was keen on seeing the new Raptor 10 to find out how these things may have been addressed. Also, I wondered if the things I loved about my Raptor 10 were either improved upon, or still there with the newer version.

Any hydration pack is only as good as its hydration bladder, otherwise, it's just another rucksack. Osprey has gone to a new bladder that hauls a legit 3L of fluids. It still retains the handle, which I loved about the older bladder, and there is a little pull handle to help you ease it out of its sleeve when you want to remove it. Finally, the hose on this bladder is slightly longer, but has that nice bite valve that turns "off" when the end is in-line with the hose and is "on" when the end is at a right angle to the hose.

The new Raptor 10 features two zippered main storage compartments on the back of the bladder sleeve. The larger inner compartment has its own double zipper and is located between the outer eyewear pouch and the bladder sleeve. This compartment runs the full length of the pack and with the dual zippers, you can lay it wide open for easy access to the inside. There you have a mesh pocket flanked by two pump sleeves. The pump sleeves are cut at a bias on the top making removal of a stowed pump much easier. This compartment is much easier to access than my older Raptor 10's is. Nice improvement here. The mesh pocket inside can easily hold a 29"er tube, a lube bottle, a multi-tool, a tire lever, and a rag. The rest of this compartment is perfect for a packable jacket, first aid, or energy supplements. My point and shoot camera fits in nicely there as well.



Below these compartments and to the very bottom of the pack we have a clever idea that Grannygear has been pitching for- the removable tool pouch. There's nothing worse than having to dig through a bunch of other stuff to get to your tools when a mechanical comes a calling. Osprey answered Grannygear's, (and I suppose a lot of others folk's), prayers with this tool pouch idea. Unzip the tool pouch compartment, take out the tool roll and get cozy with your rig. No need to drag that heavy pack over. Un-roll the tool roll and there are a couple of zippered compartments for tool organizing with a little "skirt" at the bottom which makes an excellent spot to set down small items so you won't lose them as you work. Nice! What is more, you can take that tool roll and pack it in any other pack, a jersey pocket, or whatever you want. No need for multiple sets of tools for multiple packs. Doubly nice!

Okay, here is something that has Grannygear and myself saying "Hallelujah!" The old Raptor 10 had waistbelt pockets, but they were Velcro closure pockets and very unsafe for anything of value. Put something in there and before you knew it, it would be gone. Now Osprey has seen fit to put zippers on these pockets and they are bellowed so you can stick bulkier items in there like cell phones, small cameras, energy bars, or a multi-tool. Basically, anything you want access to while you are riding. This is definitely a nice feature that was sorely missing with the older pack.

Osprey went to work on the straps and the rest of the harness by improving comfort and airflow. The straps themselves are similar in function to the older pack, but are also easier to adjust. Finally, the AirScape™ backpanel has also been re-worked to be more comfortable and cooler.

Osprey radically changed the hydration sleeve compartment opening. Now it has no buckles, like the older design, and instead features an angled zipper that terminates up into the right shoulder harness area. This allows for a larger opening, and therefore an easier to remove hydration bladder. The zipper also retains the first section of hydration hose which routes over the right shoulder and down the right harness on the chest. The hose then crosses over your chest and the bite valve still features the Magnetic Sternum Buckle which holds the end of the hose by a magnet. By the way, Osprey also is using a more powerful magnet for this job now.

The pack also features a stash pocket that is covered with a stretchy fabric and secured with a buckle on the very back of the pack. This might be useful for wet items, dirty rags, or anything you want to quickly stash on board the pack. There is also a blinkie light attachment, which resides just above the Tool Pouch. The pack has reflective graphics and still sports the LidLock™ clip to quickly attach your helmet.

