



Singletrack

Osprey's fast & light Rev 6 hydration pack

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A New Direction for Well-Regarded Pack Brand
Featuring: Rev 6

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While relatively new to the cycling scene, Osprey's hydration packs have quickly built a following for their well-considered designs and robust construction. Perhaps because of the company's focus on solid construction (as backed by the packs' lifetime guarantee), the company has until now had little to offer the fast and light crowd.

Introduced at Interbike last fall, the Rev series is aimed at trail runners and endurance athletes looking for a stable, streamlined pack. In keeping with competition's no stopping ethos, the Rev series is loaded with pockets that are accessible without removing the pack: our 6L example had six separate strap and wing pockets that a moderately flexible cyclist can reach while riding. Add a generous central compartment, a soft electronics pouch, a dedicated bladder space, and a bungee for the odd loose end and the Rev has plenty of storage to keep necessities close at hand and compulsive organisers happy.

Loading the Rev is straightforward: the 1.5L Hydraulics LT bladder has a quick disconnect near its top, making filling and stuffing easy, even without heavier Hydraulics models' structure. The main compartment feels bigger than the pack's 6L stated capacity would suggest, easily swallowing bulky winter layers. An externally-accessible electronics pocket is a welcome addition. Stretchy mesh wing pockets happily accept anything from a snack bar to a windbreaker without issue. Happily, the right strap's zip-expandable pocket makes for a convenient tool garage, with plenty of room for a gel or bar in the mesh pocket that sits on top. On the left strap, a touchscreen-friendly DigiFlip smartphone pouch deploys for mid-ride Strava checks calls to the spouse. On top of this pocket sits yet another snack-sized mesh pocket, leaving the impression that Osprey really wants us all to eat more.

The bladder hose – complete with Osprey's trademark magnetic bite valve – can be routed via either strap and the chest straps swapped without too much difficulty. That's right- chest straps. Because the Rev 6 is designed to ride high on the back, it makes use of dual chest straps but no waist strap. The stretchy perforated foam shoulder straps are wide and comfortable for even long rides and shaped so as not to be restrictive. With a phone in place, the left strap can be a bit bulky- but the DigiFlip pocket can be removed altogether if comfort becomes an issue. Without the structured Airscape back panel used on the brand's cycling-specific packs, the Rev conforms to the rider's body more- truly feeling as though it's being worn.

Once a good fit is negotiated, the Rev is an impressively stable pack that keeps all of the essentials close at hand. With a wish list containing only improved back panel moisture management and the relocation of the key hook, the Rev 6 lands very close to the mark. Short of a mid-ride wardrobe change or sandwich break, there is little reason to remove the pack at all, making it – as intended – just about ideal for both endurance racers and those of use who like to keep our snacks, tools, and electronics close at hand.

