



Outside Online

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Gear Guy

Featuring: The Stratos 24

URL: <http://tinyurl.com/2774uo2>

Today's Question:

What's the best multi-purpose backpack?

I'm searching for a great multi-purpose backpack for graduate school. I'd like to use it while biking to carry my laptop, books, and some dog accessories. In addition, I'd love to be able to throw a bladder in there along with some hiking gear. Any suggestions for me as to what route to go for a super sweet new pack?

I dunno, Liz. I guess they haven't yet taught you the art of compromise in grad school. You know, where you give up one thing to gain another.

Same for packs. You want a book pack. And a hiking pack. And a hydration pack. But a book pack is kind of a casual fashion thing. A daypack for hiking is something else. And a hydration pack is a third thing. And kind of a useless thing, really. I mean, I occasionally use a hydration bladder on a bike. But otherwise: really? A water bottle doesn't work?? I can't get my head around that.

On the more backpack-y side of things, there is the Osprey Stratos 24 (\$99). Same size as the REI pack, but a little less streamlined as it's meant to be carried while walking. But you can use it on a bike. It'll take a hydration bladder, it carries great, and its design gives you easy access to the stuff you need.

