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Lightweight backpacking for beginners and experts

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May 5, 2011

Featuring: Hornet 46

Monthly Traffic: 10,681

URL: <http://tinyurl.com/4xmx8b>

Why is the Osprey Hornet is one of the hottest new backpacks of 2011? There are several reasons: First, the Hornet series represents a radical change in the Osprey Design Philosophy away from their overbuilt backpacks to a more customizable design with removable features and lighter weight fabrics. Second, this pack clearly signals Osprey Pack's entry into the lightweight backpacking market, where consumers are interested in the improved comfort provided by ultralight gear. Lastly, there's the jaw-dropping fact that the Hornet 46 liter pack (2760 cubic inch) only weighs 25 oz fully configured or 19 oz without the Hornet's optional 3.2 oz frame sheet and 2.8 oz floating pocket. That's a coup for Osprey and puts them in an enviable market position for bringing lightweight backpacking to a mainstream audience.

Suspension System - 4.0 out of 5

Sizing and Fit - 3.0 out of 5

External Features and Storage - 5.0 out of 5

Carrying Capacity and Durability- 4.0 out of 5

Overall Value - 4.0 out of 5

The Osprey Hornet 46 is a great backpack if you have the body shape and dimensions to get a good fit. That's really the bottom line here. However, if you can get a good fit with this year's model, the Hornet's configurability and versatility make it highly competitive when compared to similar backpacks such as the GoLite Jam, which also weighs 19 oz and is similarly configured.

