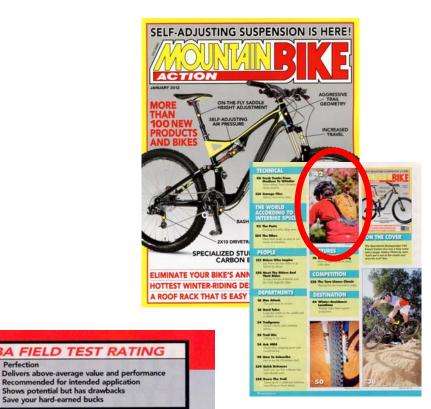


Mountain Bike Action

January 2012 MBA Field Test Featuring: Viper 7 Circulation: 90,000 Readership: 270,000



MBA FIELD TEST RATING

OSPREY VIPER 7 HYDRATION PACK ****

The problem with hydration packs is that there are so many to choose from. You might think that's a good problem, but choose a pack that is too small and, sure enough, you will be one tube short on a future ride. Choose one that is too big and you end up pedaling around dead weight. The \$74 Viper 7 hydration pack from Osprey is a pack that has finally nailed a size that will work for 95 percent of riders who wear hydration packs.

Tech features: The Viper 7 measures 17 x 8 x 4 inches for a total claimed volume of 400 cubic inches. The pack is loaded with features, including the Lidlock helmet clip, NoScratch top stash pocket, an elastic sternum strap with magnetic bite-valve attachment, a cell-phone pocket on the shoulder strap (yes, an iPhone fits), reflective graphics, BioStretch harness, ventilated spacer-mesh back panel, detachable webbing hip belt, Viper

ing system and Viper front (blue), Thunder e Supernova (shown). Ti with reservoir weighed 1 pour ounces. You can reach Osprey at (8 284-7830.

Field test results: The bag's size allowed us to pack everything we need ed for a long ride (see "Mountain Biking Hoarders" in our December issue) and nothing else. Literally. There was just enough room left over to stuff a set of arm warmers and a vest or wind shell into the pack after warming up on a morning ride. Too small? If you really need to carry something extra back from your ride, the outer-bungee lacing system would allow you to do it. The point is that this pack is the perfect size for trail rides of any length short of epic ("epic" being defined as a ride where staying overnight is a definite possibility).

The lockable Nalgene bite valve is asy to use and flows plenty of fluid.

MBA FIELD TEST RATING

Perfection Delivers above-average value and performance Recommended for intended application Shows potential but has drawbacks Save your hard-earned bucks

pack, empty or full.

The Viper 7 made us realize we have been lugging too much stuff around on our rides; it is just big enough. Of course, if you need to carry more stuff, Osprey makes a pack for you too. For the majority of riders, however, this is all the pack they will ever need. \square



Hat rack: A built-in helmet holder.





Magnetic attraction: The bite valve is held in



