



Outdoors NW

July/August 2012

The Bag Review

Featuring: Syncro 15

Circulation: 40,000

Readership: 120,000

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The review turned into our first-ever contest on Pinterest, the online pinboarding site. We asked our followers to re-pin their favorite bag. The bag with the

Osprey Syncro 15 Hydration Pack: Retail \$109.

This is the best all-around hydration pack we've tested. Osprey bags are known for their attention to detail, and the Syncro doesn't disappoint. The back has a unique taut fiber system to keep air flowing between the pack and your back. Breathability is the hallmark of this pack, from this system to the padded straps. It's got a cool clip to attach a helmet when not in use, as well as a magnetic clip that fastens the bite valve conveniently on the shoulder strap. The reservoir molds to your back and is easy to fill.

www.ospreypacks.com/



THE BAG REVIEW...

Outdoor recreation requires stuff. This also means you need to carry your stuff, which means bags.

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most repins was the prize. The winning bag was the **Tom Bihn Smart Alec**, which had a very loyal fan club! One of the repinners was Ashley Crow of Seattle, who pinned the bag on her "Summer!" pinboard. Tom Bihn has shipped Ashley one of her very own in the color of her choice. Congratulations Ashley and Tom Bihn and thanks to all who participated in our contest! Go to OutdoorsNW.com to stay up to date with the latest news and contests.

Ribs Front Packs:

Retail \$59.95.

These front packs are great for use with a backpack or without. They keep essential items within reach. Our ski photographer loved it for use on the slopes on a trip to Alaska—he could grab his camera in a flash for a quick shot without having to unstrap a bag backpack. We can think of lots of other uses as well—they'd be perfect for parents who have a toddler in a backpack but still want to have some gear storage while out on a hike. Nice way to redistribute some weight to the front, and it's healthier than a beer gut. www.ribswear.com/ribs/



Keen Springer Backseat Pack:

Retail \$100.

How handy is this backpack? camp chair? It can carry your stuff and provide a seat with a backrest for steel bodies. Inner sleeve holds a laptop or a water reservoir—great for day hikes or "working from home" out in the park. We've got our eye on this pack for the plethora of summer outdoor concerts in the Northwest. Pack a picnic dinner in this pack and then unstrap the camp chair for the ultimate Northwest evening. www.keenfootwear.com/



Dieatthehelm - Etsy:

Retail \$58.

We don't just love the bag manufacturers. We shop Etsy for the same artists we see at our local farmers markets and craft fairs. Etsy has been a cool source for bags since its inception. We found this one at the Etsy shop dieatthehelm—and the crafter, Avame Dieatthehelm, is from Portland. We love the detailed stitching and old school snaps on this bag. The inner pocket is roomy and lined with cool retro print fabric, while the outside is water resistant nylon. It's hip, practical, and is locally-made. You know you want one. www.etsy.com/shop/dieatthehelm



Detours SODO Bag:

Retail \$78.

We love Detours' bags just because of their names alone—they're named after Seattle neighborhood names. But we love the SODO for more than its reference to our favorite stadium-filled hood. This handlebar bike bag is uber-useful. Our smart phone and map can ride in waterproof style under the clear waterproof flap, so we can quickly see who's annoying us with texts as we're trying to ride. The inside is really roomy, and fits handle, tools, and more. It pops on and off really easily too—a great bag for bike commuters. detours.us/store/handlebar-bags/sodo/



Tom Bihn Smart Alec Backpack:

Retail \$140.

Tom Bihn has been making packs since he was six. All his bags are made in Seattle—we went to the factory to watch. His bags have developed a cult-like following due to his high-quality materials and thoughtful design. We loved this pack for its unique shape and wide mouth opening. It's a nice departure from the standard arch-tripper pack that every school-age kid owns. The removable laptop sleeve means you can tote the bag to work, then take out the computer and go on a weekend hike. It's a green-up pack for the serious and sophisticated traveler. www.tombin.com/



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