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Climbing Packs: Doing More with Less

Featuring: Mutant 38

Monthly Traffic: 114,300

URL: <http://tinyurl.com/8q8kqzf>

Technical climbing packs—those lightweight, stripped-down bags that allow climbers to make quick alpine-style summit assaults—aren't just for mountaineering. In fact, they should be viewed as efficient daypacks that feature all the typical bells and whistles but are purposely built for fast, efficient movement in rugged places. That means they're "clean," stripping away gratuitous features that would otherwise invite us to bring more than we need. Mountains, after all, teach us to keep it simple. What isn't there, can't break. I take comfort in that and find these climbing packs perfectly suit my needs, as well as those of many other active people. Here's what makes them so great:

- Top-Loading.
- Telescopic.
- Minimalist.
- Climbing

We've chosen five packs in the 30- to 40-liter range that exemplify the discerning packer's wants and needs. All packs are hydration compatible, with a comfortable carrying range between 20 and 40 lbs. Whether you're bagging a technical peak or hiking to the top of the nearest tree-free knoll, these packs keep it simple.



Osprey Mutant 38 This pack has an ultra-clean design with full technical features, a thermoformed contoured back panel for enhanced, day-long comfort, and a removable bivy pad that doubles for a lunch seat. \$159; osprey.com