



Climbing

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Gear Tested: All-Around Kit

Featuring: Kestrel 38

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GEAR
Tested

All-Around Kit

Passive pro, pack, and pad for every type of climber
BY JULIE ELLISON

Too comfy to be true

→ **OSPREY KESTREL 38**

"It was love at first wear," one tester said of this multi-use pack. "It makes my heavy loads feel

lighter than they actually are."

This hauler carried a full day's worth of gear: layers, food, two liters of water, helmet, shoes, rack of doubles, guidebook, and a rope (strapped under the lid) easily and comfortably on hikes up to three miles—without adding any weight of its own: It only clocks in at 3 lbs., 1 oz. That carry-friendliness comes from the AirScape suspension and backpanel system that pairs a lightweight alloy frame with rigid molded foam—neither of which sits directly against your back.

The closest part to your spine is a breathable mesh covering that didn't cause overheating on 75°F slogs. "I think I may have found the perfect pack; I have nothing



bad to say about it," another tester said. It has every feature you'd ever need: an integrated rain cover, two ice axe loops, sizeable waistbelt pockets, and three outer mesh pockets. Oh, and did we mention all of this is less than \$150?! Kyte 36 is the women's version; Kestrel 38 is the men's. \$149; ospreypacks.com

