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The Best Packs of 2015

Featuring: Mutant 38

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PACKAGE

Winter Buyer's Guide: The Best Gear of 2015



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THE BEST PACKS OF 2015

Osprey Mutant 38

BEST FOR: Ski mountaineering.

THE TEST: At first glance, the 38-liter **Mutant** (\$160) (it's also available in a 28-liter version, pictured) looks like a bare-bones pack. There's no side access to the main compartment and few obvious bells and whistles. But dig a little deeper and a bunch of vertically inspired features appear, like the zigzag webbing that pulls double-duty as both compression and ski-carry straps. With adjustment points in three spots, "it's quick to open, close, and fine-tune," said our most experienced tester, a mountain guide in British Columbia. It also downsizes nicely for shorter missions. The top lid is removable but doesn't leave the pack exposed: Osprey sewed in a flap that covers the opening and can be used to cradle a rope.

THE VERDICT: Likes to go fast. 2.7 lbs.

CARRY COMFORT: 4

FUNCTION: 4.5

