



How To Commute By Bicycle...Intelligently

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Featuring: Momentum Series

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When most of us hear the phrase "bicycle commuting," one of two images pops into our minds: One is of a hipster in skinny jeans, riding a fixie with flat bars, a basket hanging off them, stopping at a favorite coffee shop to have the barista make them a latte. The other is of driving through a howling snowstorm, seeing flashing lights, and passing something that vaguely resembles a bear with a helmet on, doggedly slogging along to a job that's probably closed due to the storm.

We looked at each part of that hypothetical ride, and then looked at the equipment that would make it make the most sense, finding some surprises along the way.

Backpacks/Messenger Bags

Here's our takeaway on this one: Messenger bags are for messengers. Think about it; they go from place to place, sometimes only a block or two, constantly pulling things out and putting them back in. A side-slung bag makes a lot of sense. But, if you're carrying some weight long distance, having it yanking on your neck from one side is going to be bloody uncomfortable. We had our resident cubicle rat use an Osprey Momentum 34 (now replaced by the [Momentum 30](#)), and after a couple of months, he simply got rid of his briefcase and used it for everything. For organizing files, pens, calculators, business cards, and the what-have-you of the business world, a good bike-specific backpack beats a pannier easily. Look around for one that has the features you need; just make sure that the hipbelt is comfortable while you're riding (and yes, a hipbelt is mandatory, both to take the weight off your shoulders and to help keep it from shifting around as you ride).



The Osprey Momentum 34 worked so well as a briefcase/backpack that the briefcase disappeared into the closet, never to return... (EasternSlopes.com)

