



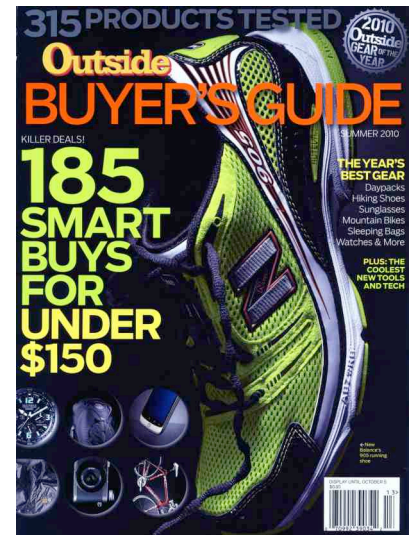
Outside – Buyer's Guide

Summer 2010

Hike: Packs

Featuring: The FlapJack Pack

Readership: 1,300,000



HIKE

Packs

Mountain Hardware

Fluid 10 550

Lunch-bowl sized, Mountain-bike rides. Long trail runs, 48,400 cubic inches, the Fluid 10 is just big enough to fit the essentials—shell, camera, lunch, etc.—without any wasted space. The light, rigid, polypropylene frame sheet gives it some stability (and a bit of ventilation) without adding too much bulk or weight. But it was the little things—like the quick-access, fence-lined pocket for sunglasses or a phone, and the easily adjustable external bungee cord—that made the Fluid our favorite little pack this year. 13 lbs. mountainhardware.com

Versatility: 4.8

Comfort: 4.2

Osprey

Urban Hiker

Osprey Flap Jack

Half messenger bag, half backpack. That's the easiest way to describe this 1,500-cubic-inch urban hauler. With a well-cushioned 15.4-inch laptop pocket and a DWR-coated, splash-resistant flap closure, it's the perfect pack for taking to work or walking to the coffee shop. Thanks to the same breathable mesh padding and comfy shoulder straps Osprey uses in its technical packs, it holds its own on the trail, too. And while we never felt the impulse to swap out the webbing straps (two additional colors are included), we did affix a bike light to the handy attachment point on the back of the pack. 21 lbs. ospreypacks.com

Versatility: 4.8

Comfort: 4.8

Specialist Smart

JanSport Sallah 5120

Although they're best known for making school bags, JanSport also has a long track record making technical performance packs—like the 2276-cubic-inch Sallah. From long day hikes to more gear-intensive scrambles to local crags, it's consistently received high marks as an comfy, versatile pack. An externally accessed hydration sleeve is easy to refill. It also has some fancy convertible side pockets. And while the design isn't perfect (it's neither easy or intuitive to adjust), the idea is a good one: Keep them buckled up and you can stash a snack, shell, or water bottle unbungee and you've got compartments big enough for a sleeping pad or even a tent. 30 lbs. jansport.com

Versatility: 3.2

Comfort: 4

How We Tested Them:

We put more than 50 packs on 15 testers of all sizes. Then we took big trips in Washington's Cascade and Colorado's Rocky Mountain National Park, logged hundreds of miles on trails in Boulder and Santa Fe, and crawled through the bush on wildlife surveys and volunteer trail projects.



Urban Hiker

Osprey Flap Jack Pack \$89

Half messenger bag, half backpack: That's the easiest way to describe this 1,500-cubic-inch urban hauler. With a well-cushioned 15.4-inch laptop pocket and a DWR-coated, splash-resistant flap closure, it's the perfect pack for biking to work or walking to the coffee shop. Thanks to the same breathable mesh padding and comfy shoulder straps Osprey uses in its technical packs, it holds its own on the trail, too. And while we never felt the impulse to swap out the webbing straps (two additional colors are included), we did affix a bike light to the handy attachment point on the back of the pack. 2.1 lbs; ospreypacks.com

Versatility: 4.8
Comfort: 4

