

Aerostich Dispatch Bag \$97 + P&P

www.aerostich.com

Aerostich currently offer four sizes of messenger bag. This bag and the larger Courier (right) are the middle-sized versions. The more compact Dispatch is more manageable.

Made of polyurethane-backed Cordura, its big main compartment contains a simple little pocket and a key hook. Outside, there's just the sturdy and easily adjusted strap, a carrying handle, a reflective strip and a buckle/Velcro combination that keeps the flap firmly secured without making it difficult to open.

It doesn't claim to be waterproof, but no water got in during our test. It's available in various finishes, including this waxed cotton. You buy directly from Aerostich in the US - they don't have dealers. The amount you pay for postage will vary depending on your order, but it will be £60 or more.



Scores

Ease of use	9/10
Ruggedness	9/10
Versatility	7/10
Total	25



Aerostich Courier Bag \$107 + P&P

www.aerostich.com

Six inches might not sound like much of a difference, but that extra length means the Courier feels very different from the Dispatch. You find yourself carrying shopping as well as your on-the-road trinkets; the bag is tough enough to cope with the weight, but you do need to make sure you're not going to strain your back.

Like the Dispatch, the Courier is tough, comfortable, easy to use and didn't leak on our test despite not claiming to be waterproof.

Our Courier was fitted with a couple of optional extras: an organiser (\$30) that attaches by Velcro inside; a quick-release strap (\$17) so you can remove it without having to lift it over your head, and a padded laptop holder (various sizes, from \$37). Aside from the extra capacity, the only difference is that the internal pocket is bigger.



Scores

Ease of use	7/10
Ruggedness	9/10
Versatility	8/10
Total	24



Kriega Urban £125

www.kriega.com

This high-spec bag is designed with motorcyclists very much in mind. Made of Cordura and Hypalon, it has a rolltop closure on the main compartment, plus a heavy-duty flap with buckles on long straps. The waterproof compartment is a simple single chamber, but there's a handy A4-size zipped compartment in the flap and another zipped pocket in one end of the bag. The shoulder strap spreads the load, with a detachable waist strap to stop the bag flapping about.

The materials and construction are top notch; the strap adjusters are metal, not plastic. It comes with loops to attach smaller Kriega bags. It's also suitable for use as a tail pack. The only downside is that the belt-and-braces design means everything takes longer than with the other bags.



Scores

Ease of use	6/10
Ruggedness	8/10
Versatility	9/10
Total	23



HDMC Messenger Bag £140.90

www.harley-davidson.com

This bag is made for Harley-Davidson and sold through their dealers, but the branding isn't going to put off non-Harley owners. It's all very classy, sturdy and nicely done. The bag is canvas, with slightly fiddly non-adjustable metal buckles. Inside, there's a padded laptop compartment, plus an organiser, bottle holder and a plastic hook for attaching keys. There's also an easy-access Velcro'd compartment on the back and a tiny pouch on one end.

The pad on the shoulder strap is big and effective, plus there's a removable waist strap. We found it to be waterproof on the road. As well as being a fine shoulder bag this is, uniquely, equipped for easy attachment to a sissy bar.



Scores

Ease of use	6/10
Ruggedness	8/10
Versatility	8/10
Total	22

