



THE MCN SHOWCASE

**LUGGAGE
LOAD UP
AND GO!**

Handy for work or that touring adventure. But which kit is best for you?



Expandable waterproof filing system



- Ease of use assessed
- Design, construction and durability rated
- Waterproofing tested during hundreds of road miles

9500 miles ON TEST

Oxford Atlas B-30 BackPack and T-10 Tour Pack £149.99/£79.99

'Luggage for a lifetime'

Tested by Justin Hayzelden for one year/9500 miles
 Oxford released the Atlas range well over a year ago now, and I've had the B-30 BackPack almost as long, using it day-in-day out as my go-to laptop and lunch lugger for the commute.

Teamed up with a pair of T-10 Tour Packs, it's also formed the core of a touring setup which has graced the back end of several machines, ranging from a tiny Honda ST125 Dax to my classic Yamaha TRX850 and Harley's adventure bike, the CVO Pan America. The main construction is 420D ripstop and 1000D PU-backed polyester, which feels tough and flexible without being heavy. And that's exactly what you want from soft luggage, and why you'd choose it over rigid cases.

Waterproofing is achieved with an internal roll top dry sack, which is held in place with Velcro type strips. I've not had any of these leak at all, even in the miserable gloom of a sustained winter downpour, but the really cool feature is that the strips are arranged in such a way that multiple inner bags can be used together. I've got two in the BackPack, one reserved for dry clothes and techy bits, with the other for general sustenance, but there's capacity to create a far more comprehensive filing system if you so wish.

All bags in the range mount together using a 'modular fast fit system' of hooks, loops and straps, enabling you to create a setup that meets your needs. I have been using the B-30 as a base pack, which attaches to the subframe or luggage rack with four tensionable tethers. It

also comes with a wide strap that goes around the seat for security. With the central pack mounted, you can start adding additional bags – in my setup it's a pair of T-10 Tour Packs for a total capacity of 50 litres. Every bag comes with an identical set of straps so they can be easily hooked together, then tightened down for a compressed and stable load. As with any soft luggage, internal loads can gradually shift, so you may need to check it from time to time to make sure everything's snugged down. I've even managed to integrate bags from another well-known manufacturer without issue, however the clever bit from Oxford is that they've included quick-release buckles which allow you to quickly and easily unclip an individual bag without having to unstrap everything. I also like the fact that I can detach

the central bag from the bike and carry the entire load as a single rucksack to my hotel room. Considering they've spent the winter being soaked through and splattered with road salt, the outer bags have made it through to summer unscathed. The inner bags are still watertight, all buckles, straps and zips are intact, so I can't see there'll be any need for Oxford to honour their lifetime guarantee any time soon. **MCN rating ★★★★★** oxfordluggage.com

PROS & CONS

- + Inner bags are waterproof, construction is tough
- Some of the logos are starting to peel off



Hooks and loops for additional packs



The B-30 has shoulder straps too



3 months ON TEST

Proper quality and built for years of use

Goldtop canvas and leather tankbag £139

'Timeless and durable gear'

Tested by Adam Oldfield for three months/1568 miles
 Canvas and leather are a timeless combination, that in most cases just cannot be beaten if you are fan of retros, classics or cruisers. The materials look great; they work well and will age beautifully with plenty of patina. Hell, I still have my grandad's home guard gas mask satchel and it's going strong as a tool

set up – especially if you ride something a bit retro, as the bag provides just about enough room to store the items you need to keep handy. The magnetic mounts are strong enough for a spirited ride and make it very easy to grab-and-go when you reach your destination.

The canvas is thick, so top it with a decent wax layer and it will easily withstand a bout of bad weather. **MCN rating ★★★★★** www.goldtop.co.uk

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SW-Motech Legend £275.99

'Simple and easy luggage'

Tested by Charlotte King for five months
 I have used this bag when I've needed to carry larger things with me, such as on a recent trip to Wales and for a few runs back and forth to the office on my trusty SV650. It's been plenty big enough to carry everything I needed for a weekend away, but not too big and bulky either. It's nice and easy to attach to the bike using four simple crocodile style clips, which grip the straps with no need to fiddle around feeding the straps back over themselves. I love the simplicity.

The opening is big enough that I was able to stuff a full set of textiles and boots in with no fuss at all, and the external pockets are handy for keeping smaller items accessible



Top quality and easy to load

1000 miles ON TEST

and within easy reach. Chunky handles make it nice and easy to carry when you arrive and have to lug it up to your hotel room, especially if you're going up and down staircases in all your kit. Quality zippers feel sturdy and run smoothly. I really like the appearance of the

luggage too, because it has a classy, timeless look. The outer is showerproof, but you need to put the waterproof cover over it on a properly rainy ride, which is a pain if you get caught in a shower. **MCN rating ★★★★★** www.sw-motech.co.uk

Oxford Heritage 30L £99.99

'Best last-minute buy'

Tested by Dan Sutherland for two years/2000 miles
 I bought this Oxford Heritage 30-litre roll bag in 2023 for a two-up trip to the German border aboard my Royal Enfield Classic 350. In typical fashion, I'd left packing to the very last minute and made a spur-of-the-moment decision to buy this bag, as the soft finish and wax cotton exterior matched the retro look of the bike and could be fastened without bulky brackets. Little did I know that – for once – I had made a good call, with the bag's wide opening swallowing sufficient clothes for the pair of us. It was fairly basic living, but for two days of essentials it was ample.

Normally attaching to the pillion seat of your bike, I actually fastened it to a rear-mounted luggage rack on the Enfield – using the additional webbing straps and large Velcro fastener at the base to keep everything fixed in place. It's not just retro bikes, I've also used it to carry luggage to the Isle of Man TT twice, on both a Honda CBR600RR, and Yamaha R9. On both occasions, it's been sturdy, secure, and easy to fit/remove. It's just a really good piece of kit, that also happens to currently have 50% off at Sportsbikeshop. **MCN rating ★★★★★** www.oxfordproducts.com

It's a trick I've since replicated on another weekend riding adventure to Oliver's Mount, and we look set to ride through Holland to Germany once again later this year. Although there is a water-resistant roll top closure, I do wrap everything inside in carrier bags as a precaution. I'd also avoid storing it anywhere that's damp because it can make the bag smell. Plus, my cat decided to use it as a bed, and it took an eternity to get all the hair out.

SW Motech Pro Blaze H £345.95

'Ideal for sportier motorcycles'

Tested by Emma Franklin for 15 months/2300 miles
 A halfway house between throw-overs and hard panniers, the Pro Blaze set is ideal for owners of sportier models. Bike-specific lightweight mounting arms simply clamp on and off the bike as required via a nylon fixing attached to the pillion footrest hanger. The 1680 denier bags have proved tough, waterproof (although they don't claim to be, and come with waterproof inner bags). **MCN rating ★★★★★** www.sw-motech.co.uk

who'd already put 2500 miles of his own on them fitted to a BMW R1250GS, but despite all-weather use you'd have been hard pressed to tell they weren't new. And in fact, after a further 4000 miles in my care fitted to a Ténéré 700, the same could still be said. I feel confident that wherever I head, my kit will be safe and dry. Prices vary depending on options, rack not included. **MCN rating ★★★★★** www.kriega.com

15 months ON TEST



Retro looks but it works just as well on the R9 as on the Enfield

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Kriega OS Pannier £299.99

'Real round-the-world stuff'

Tested by Ben Clarke for 4000 miles
 I inherited these from Rich Newland

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12 months ON TEST