



Best All-Around Mountainsmith Eclipse 55

Light enough for thru-hikes and tough enough for bushwhacks, the Eclipse combines an ultra-simple packbag with a solid suspension and reinforced, cushy, memory-foam hipbelt. The result is a versatile pack that can be overstuffed to your heart's content, thanks to superb load transfer, yet still feel at home on a light-load weekend. The streamlined packbag never snagged, not even when one tester had to thrash through a dense willow thicket by headlamp. Huge mesh holster pockets are easy to reach, and each one is large enough to swallow a hat, gloves, bars, and GPS unit all at once. The X-shaped frame stays require custom bending, but they're easily accessed. **Nitpick:** The cordlocks on the holster pockets should be captured for one-handed adjustment. \$199; 3,417 cu. in.; 3 lbs. 8 oz.



Mountainsmith Phoenix

Here's ample evidence that you don't need to sacrifice backcountry comfort or performance to build a big load-hauler that's easy on the planet.

Forget for a moment that each Phoenix diverts 107 plastic bottles from the landfill, and that its simple fabric patterns minimize waste. Ignore the fact that Mountainsmith has performed exhaustive greenhouse gas calculations to evaluate its design and production choices. Instead, consider this: The Phoenix is one of the most comfortable weeklong packs we've carried, green or not. Our editors were literally fighting over it on a recent test trip. It's much bigger (5,675 cubic inches when extended) than the other entries, but the suspension is built to handle it. We carried 60 pounds in comfort, thanks to the jumbo padded hipbelt, which circled our hips like a giant ACE bandage. Did we mention the 100% recycled fabric? It shows no sign of weakness. \$289; 5 lbs. 3 oz.; mountainismith.com

Best Buy Mountainsmith Cross Country 3.0

This pack is a screaming deal in more ways than one. It's made with 99-percent recycled fabric, a huge step forward in green design, and is full-featured right down to a sunglasses pocket and a small removable daypack. "It's very stable thanks to the snug harness, and plenty comfortable with up to 50 pounds due to all the padding," wrote one tester. You'll want to custom-bend the aluminum frame stays, but they



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