

SKI TOURING PACKS

A Review of Backcountry Ski Specific Packs

by Scott Johnston

You know you have achieved perfection of design, not when you have nothing left to add, but when you have nothing left to take off.

- Antoine de Saint Exupery

Unfortunately, Antoine is not designing packs, and many pack designers could take a lesson in elegance from this engineer, artist, and writer. Let's face the music right now: hard core, committed backcountry skiers are a small minority of the otherwise growing "alternative" gear buying public. Manufacturers dedicate their energy to designing packs that meet the varied needs of most consumers not the specialized needs of core backcountry users. That said most manufacturers have a pack or three designed to pacify the general needs of the backcountry ski crowd. In a small market crowded with many players there is a need to distinguish one's product; however it appears that, in their efforts at distinction, many pack manufacturers have chosen to ignore Antoine's sage advice and have added a plethora of features to their packs that may or may not be useful to core backcountry skiers. Before we get to the individual reviews, let's talk a bit about what the testers look for and some of the pros, cons, and tradeoffs of various design features.

Zipper Panel vs. Top Loader

For me, this debate died long ago when I witnessed a major zipper failure on my partner's pack while touring/climbing in the Tetons in January of 1977. Pete Athans was not a happy man when his pack zipper blew out while attempting to stuff just one more slightly frozen article of clothing into his pack. The result made for an interesting remainder of the trip, what with all the lashing of webbing and what not. But hey that was years ago; I'm willing to revisit this issue in light of new materials and better zippers. But, I harbor a secret suspicion that the recent advent of zipper closures is due to the fact that the previous generation of pack designers who dealt with the shortcomings of this style have all retired and the new wave thinks they have just stumbled onto a clever idea.

Old fashioned as they are; you can always stuff just one more item into a top loading pack with a lid and drawstring. The same can't be said for zipper closure packs as evidenced by the above mentioned tale and many more like it. This over stuffing capability is important to most mountain travelers. An old but oft overlooked benefit of a top loader is the ability to stuff the lid into a partly filled sack, pull the drawstring tight making a much smaller and more streamlined package.

The main benefit of the standard zip pack is that you have full access to all your gear by utilizing the clamshell design. This is a good thing when it can help you get at the stuff on the bottom easily. However, in opening the zipper fully you usually have to undo several compression straps, and when laid fully open, most zip packs start to risk major spillage of gear or the unwanted entrance of snow into the pack. If you don't undo the compression straps or open the zipper fully, most of these packs offer more restricted access than a top loader. The second most discouraging drawback of MOST zip packs is that they open from the front surface (the side facing away from your back) which means that to open them fully you have to lay them flat on their back in the snow.

That's right, the side that has been against your sweaty back for the last hour and a half of skinning. This sweaty side can, if the fabric is not carefully chosen, pick up as much snow as the sticky side of your skins if they fall into the snow.

All this doesn't mean zipper packs are to be ignored; in fact, several earn worthy praise, but be aware of your usage. Zipper packs can provide a nice clean profile if done well (more on this anon).

Ski Carrying Systems

Most of us don't carry our skis on the pack too often or for very long at any given time. However, a slick ski carrying system can make the chore much more pleasant. The standard scenario for deciding to carry skis rather than keeping them on your feet goes something like this: you've chosen a line of ascent that becomes too steep or dangerous to continue skinning. However, your awareness of this usually happens once you are in the steeps where it may be precarious to mount your skis to your pack. The decision to pack the skis or switchback up the gully is easily influenced by the ease of your ski mounting system. Since the idea of wrestling your pack around in the snow on a 45-degree slope is generally unappealing, we often heft the skis over our shoulder and boot up the fall line. Well, there is now a better way. Several packs offer a diagonal ski mount system on the outside of the pack that is simplicity itself. With just one buckle, the skis are secured out of the way. No more "A" or "H" frame. Both of which entail stability issues as well as functionality problems for kicking steps and or pack access. The diagonal carrying system is a sweet recent design innovation that Antoine would embrace as it moves in the simpler direction.

Tools

We backcountry tourists need to carry a few essential tools: shovel, probe, avy pit kit, first aid kit, repair kit, maybe a snow saw if you are serious about your pit studies. In the not too distant past we were lucky if pack makers made any special considerations for carrying even a shovel. Nowadays, many packs have sprouted pockets and straps for carrying all sorts of stuff on either the inside or outside and sometimes both. Putting the tools inside has always been a possibility but often results in crowding and difficulty in extracting your other needed gear from amongst your tools. If you like the garage sale look, festoon the outside of your pack with shovel, probe saw and maybe an ice ax. However, those may not be admiring glances you are getting as most pros prefer to keep their tools secure inside their packs. This not only provides a cleaner look, but also avoids hooking tools on low branches, which can bring an unglamorous end to your tree skiing. Mostly however, inside tool storage keeps things safe and secure should you take a tumble or go for a ride in an avalanche or sluff. This may sound unlikely but hey, that is why you brought all those tools out there in the first place isn't it? Some of these packs were designed by devotees of the garage sale look, while others were designed for serious backcountry use with well designed tool storage areas.

Suspension Systems

All of these packs carry very well and offer well designed and comfortable suspensions. Clearly, there has been a great deal of emphasis and progress in this area, industry-wide. In fact, some of these packs have

suspension systems suitable for packs twice their size. All of our testers agreed that the suspension systems on several of the packs were over built. Unless you're smuggling gold bars you'd be hard pressed to overload some of the smaller volume packs in this test. Choose a suspension system that matches your intended load and use, not one based on how soft and comfy it feels in the store. We measured our typical load of an all day winter ski tour and came up with 16/18lbs. This load included; shovel, probe, first aid kit, avy pit kit, 1 liter of water, 1/2 liter thermos of tea, small repair tool, lunch, extra gloves, goggles, insulated jacket. Remembering that extra weight can really impact your skiing enjoyment, this seems like a manageable and yet, not scrimpy amount. So, you can see that even if you pack a bit heavy it would be hard to top 25lbs. Even the lightest suspension systems in this review will easily carry 25lbs with comfort.

Instructions

With the additional complexity of some of these packs, the manufacturers would be wise to include owners' manuals. To our knowledge only Wookey does this. For various reasons the myriad of features on many of these packs remain unknown to their owners.

Weights and Volumes

Cast a wary eye on the manufacturers' advertised weights and volumes. We aren't sure if there is some sort of industry standard for volume measurements, but we carefully loaded each pack with Styrofoam packing peanuts, filling all the available pockets and lightly stuffing everything to ensure complete filling. We did this on all the packs, using the same method to ensure uniformity. Our results are listed in the specs and make for some interesting comparisons.

Armed with this background information let's take a close look at each of the packs we tested.

Arc'Teryx - M30

Arc'Teryx's newest entry into the backcountry ski/board market has one very noticeable, novel feature that sets it apart from the crowd: A dry bag, roll top closure. This opening system does offer quick access to the contents but is really no better than a conventional top loader. It could be handy for skiing in a downpour, but really, how often do you need a super waterproof closure? The roll top doesn't allow any over stuffing or it will not close. The incidentals pocket that would normally be in the top flap has been relegated to a tiny pocket near the roll top that will not hold much more than a pair of sunglasses. This seemed like a big oversight to us. The back pad is very stiff and unyielding, which seems unnecessary in such a small pack. The back material absorbs water and seems to have open cell foam under it, which will hold that water a long time. The ski/board holder is meant to mount skis vertically on the front surface with Arc'Teryx's nice sticky rubber material, but the strap system is MUCH better at holding a snowboard than skis. The trademark shovel pocket on the front surface will hold a full size Voile blade but just barely and with cold fingers it's a struggle. There is no water bladder carrying compartment, though our testers are split on the relative merits of bladders. Larry noticed several unbound seams on the inside, which do not seem indicative of Arc'Teryx construction. In our collective experience, Arc'Teryx durability is fairly good so this may not be much of an issue. In short, Arc'Teryx makes better ski specific packs in the form of the tried and tested Khamski and the Borea. We all felt the roll top feature was a gimmick and not practical.



Arc'Teryx M30

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Pack Review . . . continued

Arc'Teryx - Borea

This time-tested work horse met with almost universal praise except from Steve who thought it too big (enough for a 5 day tour, says he). Larry was very impressed with the workmanship and materials which includes Spectra cloth in the main body. This top loader has a lot of features that make it very well suited for ski touring. However, this spring I also used it for several day trips of alpine climbing and found it big enough to carry a rope, a climbing rack, all the other guiding gear, and still climb well. I was able to easily remove the waist belt so it wouldn't interfere with the climbing harness and it still carried fine due to the superb suspension. A side zipper gives easy access to the bottom of the load if needed. The versatile size allows for overnight use but is still small enough to comfortably use on day trips. A large external pocket is meant to carry a shovel but will hold a lot more since it also encloses a smaller pocket for seldom needed items like a repair kit. A handy side pocket carries a saw, probe and shovel handle. The lid is nice and big with inner and outer zippers but we didn't really like the top zipper's placement in the middle of the lid rather than positioned close to the back surface. What didn't we like? The back material absorbs water, there is no hydration pouch inside, and the ski carrying system is the older A/H frame type and has all their inherent shortcomings.



Arc'Teryx Borea

shoulder strap. This routing not only keeps the tube out of the way but the insulated strap is reputed to keep it from freezing; kudos to BCA on this feature. As anyone who has had their drink tube freeze can attest, this system should be required for a winter pack with a bladder system. All testers felt that the shoulder straps are uncomfortably wide to the point of interfering with normal arm movements, especially on smaller users. A dual mode ski carrying system is provided. Side straps allow for A-frame mounting, and a diagonal front mount allows front mounting. The ice axe loop and diagonal loops tuck away into nice little pockets when not needed. Tool storage is all internal like it should be. The back pad material absorbs water but not the pad itself. The suspension system is simple and adequate for a pack of this size but on the light end of the spectrum in this test. The black Ninja look is pretty basic and doesn't highlight the features of the pack well.

Black Diamond - Snow Pack II

This BD pack has been around a few seasons now for good reason. It is the best compromise pack of the bunch. If you can only have one small pack to use for alpine climbing and ski touring, this should be it. Several specific features make it ideal for touring. All the tools fit inside in special holders. Ski carrying straps are fitted, albeit the older A-frame style, but the zipper still allows access. The suspension is adequate for the load but not overkill. The quality of workmanship is average and the shoulder straps seem a bit flimsy compared to the rest. Larry suspected the foam would pack out in a season or two. The back pad material is waterproof, which doesn't feel as plush in the store but works great in the field. A crampon pouch and ice axe holders add versatility, and a hydration pocket is fitted. Clearly this pack is designed by skiers/climbers and it shows. The zipper closure... Oh well, we've been there already and it is a matter of preference that we'll leave to the well informed consumer, but we will say, of the zip packs we looked at this is the only one with a large and easily accessed incidental pocket. It is a simple, no nonsense pack.



Black Diamond Snow Pack II

Backcountry Access - Stash BC

BCA has produced a simple and cleanly designed touring pack for the serious skier with some very nice features. This zipper style pack uses "waterproof" zippers throughout, thus eliminating the need for those pesky zipper flaps that can make entry a hassle. The main compartment is opened via a normal clamshell zipper that is crossed by the two upper compression straps. These two straps are low enough on the pack that even with them cinched up the zipper can be opened far enough to give easy access like a top loader (the lack of zipper flap helps make this a breeze). Unlike most of the zipper packs tested, BCA realized that the lid pockets on top loaders offer valuable space and provided both an interior and exterior incidental pocket of good size. Not only does the pack have a water bladder pouch, it includes a bladder and utilizes a novel feature of running the drink tube inside the left



Backcountry Access Stash BC

very competitive price (In fact, we took a brief look at DaKine's Blade pack too, which is a full featured, scaled down version of this guy and retails for only



DaKine Guide

\$100). Very nice die cut shoulder straps are coupled with an excellent suspension system and nonabsorbent waterproof materials for the back pad. Two features that really stand out as innovative, useful ideas are the zipper access through the back panel to the main compartment and the clever diagonal ski carrying system we talked about earlier. A couple of features we found less useful were the clear plastic map window sewn into the bottom of the lid whose stiffness keeps the lid from sealing well. The other is the large sewn-in compartment like stuff sacks inside the main body; the hydration one gets in the way of the clever back panel access while the other just makes for confusion while rooting inside. Your shovel blade goes into a special pocket and all the tools fit into internal sleeves. There is even a wand stashing sleeve on the outside and a snowboard carrying system. There is also a convenient removable stash pocket on the waist belt. If you can think of it,

this pack probably has it. In use, we have seen several DaKine packs with seam failures, particularly haul loops pulling out. The Guide is a good sized pack that will easily carry all your stuff for a long winter's day tour and can be pressed into service for extended hut trips too.

Granite Gear - Cornice

Steve liked the way this pack carried and the good size to weight ratio of this traditional and simple top loader. Good workmanship is evident, but once again the pack pad soaks up water like a sponge. The ski attachment is the standard A/H configuration but uses four removable rubber straps like the kind found on crampons. These straps make for secure mounting but give the pack a cluttered look. The stretchy shovel pocket, which appears to be made from Spandura, is unique in this group and did a good job of holding the blade on the front of the pack. This pouch will unavoidably hold a lot of snow on deep powder days should you be so gauche as to fall. The lid zipper seemed too short to us as it hampered access to the contents. There is an extension/spindrift collar at the top opening and



Granite Gear Cornice

Pack Specs

Pack	Mfg. Volume	Our Volume	Mfg. Weight	Our Weight	Price
Arc'Teryx - M30	1850 cu in	1550 cu in	4lbs 1oz	4lbs 2oz	\$210
Arc'Teryx - Borea	2870 cu in	2750 cu in	4lbs 6oz	4lbs 8oz	\$259
BC Access - Stash BC	2000 cu in	2000 cu in	3lbs 5oz	3bs 7oz	\$145
BD - Snow Pack II	2000 cu in	2050 cu in	3lbs 5oz	3bs 8oz	\$145
DaKine - Guide	2800 cu in	2660 cu in	4lbs 3oz	5lbs 1oz	\$135
Graite Gear - Cornice	2800 cu in	2500 cu in	3lbs 6oz	3lbs 8oz	\$155
Life-Link - Rando	2200 cu in	1600 cu in	2lbs 9oz	2lbs 12oz	\$125
Mammut - Glacier 30	1830 cu in	2100cu in	3lbs 2oz	3lbs 1oz	\$185
Mountainsmith - Chasm	2600 cu in	1780cu in	4lbs 1oz	4lbs	\$150
North Face - Patrol	2990 cu in	2900 cu in	4lbs 13oz	5lbs 3oz	\$199
Ortovox - Challenge 35L	2135 cu in	2180 cu in	3lbs 8oz	3lbs 8oz	\$135
Wookie - Sundog	1860 cu in	1500 cu in	3lbs 2oz	3lbs 12oz	\$187

Tester Profiles

North Cascade Mountain Guides

North Cascades Mountain Guides is a small company of guides residing in Mazama, Washington, the epicenter of skiing and climbing at the base of famed Washington Pass. All of the testers work for NCMG and spend the bulk of their waking hours in the mountains either skiing or climbing for work or play. Such a committed group takes their gear selection very seriously and the stuff that doesn't make the grade heartlessly goes to the next ski swap. Off Piste has asked these pros to evaluate several different pieces of specialized ski touring gear, so over the next few issues they'll be casting a critical eye at some of the gear the industry is trying to persuade us that we can't live without. www.ncmountainguides.com

Testers

Steve House: Fully certified UIAGM guide, climbing, ski touring, and heli-ski guide. Can go both ways but prefers AT gear. Minimalist when it comes to pack volume, Steve is a major proponent of the light and fast style in all things outdoors related.

Anne Keller: Climbing, ski touring and heli-ski guide. AT gear. Practical approach offers a kinder, gentler view of the gear being tested; took the edge off the testosterone imbalance in the test crew.

Larry Goldie: Climbing and ski touring guide. Accomplished AT skier but diehard (some would say rabid) pin head. An accomplished pack builder himself, Larry offered a workman's eye view of features and construction.

Scott Johnston: Climbing and ski touring guide. Abandoned tele gear in 1978 when he got a pair of Ramer AT bindings and has never looked back, although he has upgraded his bindings. The Luddite of the group.

only one drawstring is fitted at the top of it for cinching the top shut. Unlike most top loaders, there is no drawstring closure at the top of the main body. This didn't cause us any trouble but does mean that there is no way to tighten up a lightly loaded pack, and stuffing the lid into the body is out of the question.

The lid is removable and we puzzled over the extra side release buckles on the lid and top of the shoulder straps for quite along time (instructions would be helpful). Larry decided that

the clips could be used when the pack is extra loaded to allow reattachment of the shoulder straps onto the lid for better control of the load. This sounds complicated, but it's not when you see it. We didn't have an opportunity to carry such



Life-Link
Rando

an over loaded pack to test this feature and hope you don't either even though it looks like it would work.

Life-Link - Rando

New from the team in Jackson, Wyoming, is this super-specialized touring pack. Antoine would be all over this rig as it presents the cleanest/ simplest design of the bunch. Clearly a lot of field testing and feedback went into stripping this sack of any frills. It's a bit on the small side for a full day outing in mid winter at a measured 1500 cu in. (we might be off a few inches but no way is this a 2200 cu in pack). It's zip pack but overcomes the major drawbacks of all the other zipper models we looked at by some very clever and simple design innovations. First, the zipper opening on the main compartment curves around the edge of the back pad, meaning that like the DaKine you can lay the pack front side down in the snow and open the

entire back to access your stuff. Unlike all the other zip packs, no compression straps need to be undone, giving this pack the easiest access. Second, all your tools are stored inside another compartment on the front, which is accessed through an asymmetric zipper that is also unhindered by compression straps. This front pouch has ample room for shovel, probe, pit kit etc. and keeps everything neat and separated from the main compartment, which can be compressed by some shorty straps. We felt that it would be nice to have the straps be able to also compress the gear pouch in order to keep the load closer to the back. Third, a slick diagonal ski carry system needing only one buckle to mount makes the chore of carrying skis as simple as it can be. With skis mounted, the pack carries very well thanks to a well designed suspension that is appropriate for such a small volume sack. Aside from the size limitation the only other negative

comments are that the fuzzy/comfy back pad material is absorbent (although the underlying foam didn't seem to be), and the number 10 zipper will leak. This seems like a good place for one of those new waterproof zippers that seem to be all the rage. A nice handle on top makes for easy hefting and carrying. A great pack for short days or spring trips and out of bounds skiing. I'm sure we'll see a lot of these out there this winter. Congrats Life-Link.

Mammut - Glacier 30

The Glacier is a panel loader with zipper access. The clean and simple design creates a no nonsense pack that speaks to its Swiss roots. It carries skis in the traditional A-frame style or will carry a snowboard along the front of the pack body. The side ski holsters are nice and beefy and accommodate modern fat skis. The snowboard mount is very simple, secure, and separate from the ski mounts. Both

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Pack Review . . . continued

double as compression straps and inhibit entry to the pack to a degree when fastened. The main body of the pack offers a hydration system sleeve and a roomy accessory pocket (although the pocket's zipper could use a larger opening) The secondary or outside compartment is dedicated to avy gear with plenty of room for your shovel and sleeves for your



Mammut Glacier 30

handle, probe, and saw to keep everything easy to find. The pocket also has a drain to keep moisture from your shovel or skins from pooling in the bottom. Despite its spacious design, the outside panel could be improved with a longer zipper/larger opening. The pack is sized just right for your average winter/spring day. If you need a pack that can be pushed to overnight service or you prefer to take the kitchen sink along, try the Glacier 40, a mirror pack that specs out at 2440 cubic inches. Fit and comfort are excellent but the pack (at least the 30) definitely favors those with a shorter torso. The waist belt includes a quality gear loop on one side and a small zipper pocket on the other and is fully removable for wearing a harness. The shoulder straps include Velcro loops to keep your hydration tube handy and

adjustable ice axe loops finish off the outside. Overall, the Glacier 30 is a clean practical pack, with some of the best workmanship and materials of the bunch.

Mountainsmith - Chasm

A traditional top loader with good workmanship, materials, and an all around design make this pack a good choice for folks needing versatility. Not very light or very innovative, but it will get the job done without fuss. It has a very comfy suspension system that carries wonderfully but seems like overkill on such a small pack. Once again the back pad materials are water absorbent. Standard ski slots and compression straps are used to allow A/H frame mounting for carrying. A crisscrossed bungee cord on the front allows a shovel blade to be carried but is not as secure a set up as a pocket and all the other tools have to be lashed on the outside or mixed inside with the main load. A small spindrift collar with only one drawstring still allows lid stuffing but not much volume extension. This is odd given that the lid is meant to extend a bit to accommodate a bigger load. Larry was impressed with how well the lid fit but the attaching straps for it are mounted a good 7 inches down the back so



Mountainsmith Chasm

that when you open the lid it falls inconveniently far. The lid has a nice big pocket with a smaller pocket inside for little stuff and a hydration sleeve is fitted inside the pack body too. The rope carrying strap under the lid was a nuisance, because one end of it always fell down between the pad and our backs.

The North Face - Patrol

Perhaps in an attempt to out do DaKine in the weight and option department, TNF's offering is an amazing display of over-engineering that must have Antoine rolling in his grave. It's big and I used it on a one week hut trip. It carried well due to the nice suspension (hey, we said they all did this part well) helped by die cut shoulder straps and hip belt.

Larry and I puzzled over several features for so long that in the end we could still couldn't figure out what they were for (owner's manual please). Luckily for us the weird double beaver tail flaps were easily removed. Typical of TNF, high quality materials and construction are found throughout. The lid has a nice small stuff pocket inside. The lid attachment, like the Mountainsmith, is so far

down the back that the lid falls into the snow each time you open it. The strange extension sleeve doesn't have a sew tube for its drawstring, but when extended makes this into one mondo size pack. A hydration sleeve is fitted and there is a nice side



North Face Patrol

zipper to access stuff that is lower down in the large body. However, opening it is hampered by the 3 compression straps on each side. Extra bungees and straps left us confused but you could haul the kitchen sink with this guy. The pack offers an A-frame ski carrying system and a unique way of sliding the skis vertically down behind one of the beaver tails. Sorry guys, we know you can do better.

Ortovox - Challenge 35L

The 35 L is a traditional top loader with a relatively clean design targeted at skiers and ski mountaineers. The pack accommodates a hydration system with an internal "envelope" creating space for the bladder and has functional elastic loops to hold the hose along the shoulder strap. The pack body offers two draw strings, one at the top and one on a small extension/powder skirt (which may be handy as the lid fit is awkward unless the pack is fully loaded). The outside uses a zippered compartment that is promoted to hold your shovel blade and handle, but with a full size Voile shovel, we found it an awkward fit for both, so we ended up with the handle inside the pack. A secondary sleeve along side the pack makes a very nice probe pocket. Skis are carried via a traditional A-frame mount and the pack can accommodate two ice axes. The two straps meant for the ice axes can be removed for an even cleaner appearance. The lid is roomy and has three

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separate compartments. On the top side is a nice small fleece lined and padded pocket for glasses/goggles. The underside of the lid has a small mesh pocket with a key clip and the main lid compartment is of standard size but with a zipper that runs along two sides allowing for easy access. The lid attaches to the front of the pack via a single 1.5 inch fastex buckle while the backside is sewn into the pack along the lids full width. Although the sewn-in lid makes for a clean design, the lid fits poorly unless the pack is fully loaded. The waist belt is well padded, offers a Velcro closure pocket on one side and a sturdy gear loop on the other. The belt is also removable for use with a climbing harness.



Orlovex Challenge 35L

this zipper sack to be the hardest by far to get into. Six compression straps cover the back of this small pack when the ski carrying straps are in place. To get full access, which is the point of a zip pack, you must undo all six. A burly zipper flap makes partial opening a chore. If you are carrying the shovel blade on the front as recommended, access becomes even more difficult. The suspension carries beautifully, and would do justice to a 3000-cu in pack, but it is overkill on such a small pack. The back pad is of a super plush and comfy

material that is also super absorbent (Antoine, have we said this enough that the designers will get it?). The ski carrying system is a removable set of straps giving a vertical, bases together, set-up on the front, sort of like TNF's beaver tail arrangement. On a zip pack, this mounting makes access even more difficult. Clearly Wookey



Wookey Sun Dog

has the ability to build packs with the best of them and we hope they will focus on this market with a more ski specific model in the future.

Scott Johnston, an accomplished skier and mountaineer, brings us this review from the North Cascades where keeps the NCMG crew in line.

Wookey - Sundog

This pack is made by a small firm in Bozeman, whose quality driven attitude is amply evident. They were also the only ones who supplied us with a well thought out owner's manual, which actually did prove useful when we were fitting the ski carrying straps. The quality of materials and workmanship are unmatched by any other pack in this test. It is very clear that these US made packs are put together with skill and care and are built to last several lifetimes of abuse. Unfortunately, the design doesn't live up to the workmanship. We found

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