

4:45 - 5:45pm

Overall considerations

- Lots of photographers have heard of the tripod learners fee. There's a similar entry fee for camera bags, and not everybody pays that price.
- Looks matter but shouldn't be the main consideration. If you're shooting a client job, what does your bag say about you?
- How many cameras and lenses do you plan to regularly carry in your bag?
- Can you afford multiple bags for the various kinds of photo outings you do?
 - eg. Photo walk, vacation travel, client work, traveling studio work, etc.
- Bags are like lenses. Different lenses are used for very specific image capture. Like you might have one lens you use for portraits and you have another lens for photo walks. Depending on where you're going and how much gear you need on that trip, you'll buy bags or slings or camera travel luggage just for that situation.
- Laptop? Tablet? Accessories?
- Planning to take along other things like clothes?
- Is this for office, school, photo walks, client work
- Will it need to be TSA friendly yet secure?
- Carrying style - backpack, shoulder, waist bag, rollers w/ telescoping handle
- PeakDesign.com has a bag finder quiz
- Is fast access important?
- What about additional carry positions on a photo walk like a camera holster or waist pouch
- BlackRapid Strap
- Similar to the RapidStrap, PeakDesign has the Slide Camera Strap
- SpiderHolster belt clip

Bag Features to Think About

- Movable padded Velcro dividers
- Backpack or luggage (travel compliant)
- Quick access panels
- Stiffness
- Versatility and changeable functions
- Size and comfort when loaded
- Do you need space for a laptop or tablet
- Vented back for comfort on long, hot hikes
- Do you really need lots of little dividers and mini compartments or could you use a container within them bag
- Does it come with a rain cover, is the fabric water repellent, or both
- How easy is it to put on or take off when fully loaded
- Any deployment considerations when you reach your destination
- Do you need any external fixtures for carrying things like a travel tripod
- Are you a sling shooter who will also be wearing the backpack

Not really features but consider these things

- Buy where you can exchange
- Ask the pros questions

- Read reviews and watch videos
- The perfect bag for one person isn't perfect for everyone
- You don't need as big a bag as you think you do
- Check out the warranty and the company behind it
- Ask fellow photographers what they use
- Put the manual in a pocket where you can always get to it
- Read the manual when you first get your bag and then re-read it in a couple weeks or after you've used your bag a few times

BAGS to SHOW – I picked a good cross section and asked to borrow some demo bags PLUS my personal bags

– Lowepro – ProTactic BP450 AW II Camera and Laptop Backpack

https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/1431289-REG/lowepro_lp37177_protactic_bp_450_aw.html?sts=pi&pim=Y

- Main zippers are very rugged
- Access to main compartment is when face down and back straps are placed aside
- Comes with Accessory pouches
- Shoulder and waist straps with clips - waist straps have thin pouches on each side
 - Waist strap holds some weight and makes it more stable for climbing. It's removable.
- Small access to 3 separate camera bodies. 1 on each side and 1 on top
- Laptop is only accessible when you fully zip open the back section
- I wouldn't use this as a checked bag because the pulls aren't really designed to be locked

– Peak Design Everyday Backpack v2

https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/1515240-REG/peak_design_bedb_30_bk_2_everyday_backpack_30l_v2.html

– Peak Design Everyday Sling v2

https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/1515260-REG/peak_design_beds_3_bk_2_everyday_sling_3l.html

– MindShift (ThinkTank) Gear Rotation 180 22L Photo Backpack

https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/1635837-REG/think_tank_photo_520206_rotation_180_22l_photo.html?sts=pi&pim=Y

Serious Gear that's popular for hikers

– F-Stop's new Duradiamond Series – Anja 37L or the big Tilopia 50L – incredibly comfortable, customizable, and ready to hike a mountain with you!

https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/search?q=f-stop%20duradiamond&filters=fct_category%3Abackpacks_daypacks_176

– ThinkTank Airport International V2 (mine)

– **Kata Backpack bag (mine)**

– **Nomadic McKinnon 21L Cube Pack and Convertible Backpack**

https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/1576632-REG/nomatic_pmcp_00_blk_01_mckinnon_cube_pack.html

Messenger bags

– **Tenba DNA bags**

[https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/search?](https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/search?q=tenba%20dna%20messenger&filters=fct_brand_name%3Atenba)

[https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/search?](https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/search?q=tenba%20dna%20messenger&filters=fct_brand_name%3Atenba)

[q=tenba%20dna%20messenger&filters=fct_brand_name%3Atenba](https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/search?q=tenba%20dna%20messenger&filters=fct_brand_name%3Atenba)

– **Think Tank Retrospective** have been popular for awhile

[https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/search?](https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/search?q=think%20tank%20retrospective&filters=fct_brand_name%3Athink-tank-photo%2Cfct_category%3Ashoulder_gadget_bags_174)

[q=think%20tank%20retrospective&filters=fct_brand_name%3Athink-tank-photo%2Cfct_category%3Ashoulder_gadget_bags_174](https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/search?q=think%20tank%20retrospective&filters=fct_brand_name%3Athink-tank-photo%2Cfct_category%3Ashoulder_gadget_bags_174)

Studio Cases

– **Think Tank Production Manager** is the industry standard but looks like they are out of stock for a couple months – available in two sizes

[https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/1411435- REG/](https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/1411435-REG/manfrotto_mb_pl_lw_97w_2_pro_light_rolling_organizer.html/reviews)

[manfrotto_mb_pl_lw_97w_2_pro_light_rolling_organizer.html/reviews](https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/1411435-REG/manfrotto_mb_pl_lw_97w_2_pro_light_rolling_organizer.html/reviews)

– **Manfrotto Pro-Light Rolling Lighting Gear Organizer** comes in a medium and large

[https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/1411435- REG/](https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/1411435-REG/manfrotto_mb_pl_lw_97w_2_pro_light_rolling_organizer.html/reviews)

[manfrotto_mb_pl_lw_97w_2_pro_light_rolling_organizer.html/reviews](https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/1411435-REG/manfrotto_mb_pl_lw_97w_2_pro_light_rolling_organizer.html/reviews)

– **Larry's Golf bag shipping container for stands (& cloth stand bag inside it)**

Not Bags but other mini packable containers for INSIDE your bag

– **Pelican or other brand of memory card holders.** Some people like fabric wallets but I prefer the hard cases

– **Ruggard**

[https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/1496797- REG/](https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/1496797-REG/ruggard_mau_6s3cb_leda_memory_card_case.html)

[ruggard_mau_6s3cb_leda_memory_card_case.html](https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/1496797-REG/ruggard_mau_6s3cb_leda_memory_card_case.html)

– **Fabric Think Tank memory card holder**

[https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/1458215- REG/](https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/1458215-REG/think_tank_photo_740217_pixel_pocket_rocket_black.html)

[think_tank_photo_740217_pixel_pocket_rocket_black.html](https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/1458215-REG/think_tank_photo_740217_pixel_pocket_rocket_black.html)

– **EVA hard case within a case (my RØDE microphone case)**

– **Nomatic McKinnon Battery Holder that comes with cool skull sticker**

[https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/1576631- REG/nomatic_pmmbc_00_blk_01_mckinnon_battery_case.html](https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/1576631-REG/nomatic_pmmbc_00_blk_01_mckinnon_battery_case.html)

– **My ThinkTank Battery holder**

– **Nomatic McKinnon memory card holder is magnetic**

[https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/1576636- REG/nomatic_pmmc_00_blk_01_mckinnon_memory_card_case.html](https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/1576636-REG/nomatic_pmmc_00_blk_01_mckinnon_memory_card_case.html)

Hard Cases

– **Pelican** is still the industry standard and their new **Vault Cases** are the most durable and lighter weight

<https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/buy/pelican-vault-cases/ci/44883>

– **Nanuk** is a very close second and offers some great options and incredible durability

<https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/browse/nanuk/ci/50185?origSearch=nanuk>

– **Larry's Apache hard case** from Harbor Freight

Larry's Cheap Shots ideas

- Rolling golf bag shipping case
- Gun cases
- Hard cases from Harbor Freight
- EVA "hard" zipper cases online
- Tool cases from Home Depot
- Add-on padding from Marshalls, Ross, 5 Below, Walmart
- Hide your expensive looking cases sometimes using baby duffles (maybe add a little pampers bag in it)
- Cable ties
- Hot hands chemical hand warmers to warm your cameras when you're going from AC to warm, outdoor environment. Prevents fogging.
- Neoprene zipper lunch bag with workout mat padding inside

Wrap Up Points

- Looks matter but they're not the most important thing

- Start by making a features wishlist
- Your bag is an investment
- Don't buy a GIANT bag where you can pack everything you own
- Get 1 or 2 or 3 bags that work for various kinds of shoots
- Shop where you can return
- Shop where you can ask questions of pros
- Look for legit reviews (B&H and not Amazon)