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## KLIM Hydration Backpacks

by Paul H. Smith

Most of us think of *KLIM* for their excellent line of motorcycle jackets and pants, but they also carry related, less publicized, products worth a peek. Consider for example a couple of backpacks that double as hydration packs, designed specifically for dual-sport and adventure motorcycling.

These backpacks are similar in design, but vary in carrying capacity. I've been using them extensively over the last year, and would like to relay several useful observations for those who may be in the market for a new or replacement backpack.

Like all *KLIM* products, these backpacks are made to take a beating, actually, a lot of beatings. Everything about them is industrial strength. If you're accustomed to backpacks made for hiking, you'll know that they tend to wear out rather quickly as their lightweight construction isn't durable. Depending upon your physical size or the type of motorcycle jacket and armor you wear, the other not-so-obvious thing about *KLIM*'s backpacks is that the shoulder and waist straps are made to fit bulky jackets. I've had some problems in the past with other backpacks "strangling" my shoulders and being uncomfortable. The *KLIM*s are wider spaced with a generous fit that also makes them unusually easy to get on and off, as well as extremely comfortable when on the bike.

The backpacks also come with a built-in hydration system. However, *KLIM*'s hydration bags are a little different than typical Camelbak-style offerings. The thing I like the most is how easy the bladder is to thoroughly clean—it can be easily turned inside out for this purpose. Also, the

### PROS

- Designed to be comfortable over large motorcycle jackets
- Insulated and stays cool against the back
- High quality zippers

### CONS

- Not waterproof
- Zippers need a tuck-away to prevent accidental opening
- Sternum cinching stays have a tendency to slip



mouthpiece is at more of a 30° angle versus the typical 90° angle. So, depending upon your helmet design this will either improve or hinder water access.

Both backpacks have something else unlikely to be found in a hiker's version—reflective strips. As we all know, being seen is paramount, and although I'd like to see even more reflective material, the *KLIM*s do their part in keeping you visible.

The zippers are of the highest quality and unlikely ever to fail. And, the extra padding throughout not only helps to keep things insulated, but also provides some protection for the contents in case of a fall.

Most of us are only too familiar with the "sweaty back" syndrome. The *KLIM* designs make effective use of unique airflow channels that help to ventilate the back.

If there's a design flaw, it's found when it rains. Neither backpack is waterproof. And, depending upon the downpour, this not only can add weight, but also soak the pack's contents.

Another testament to *KLIM*'s unusual build quality is how well their backpacks take a lickin' and keep on tickin'. I have a tendency to throw backpacks around to a point where they're very dirty and beat up. I've worn out several in less than half the time I've used these *KLIM*s, and they're still in almost new condition.

The Krew Pak is the bigger of the two. It holds approximately twice that of the Nac Pak. But, I found that the Nac Pak often didn't quite carry everything I needed to haul around, so the Krew Pak became my favorite. It's just about perfect for most things, leaving a little room for packing variations.

**Overall impressions:** If you're looking for a heavy-duty backpack with hydration that'll withstand years of bashing and abuse, there's little doubt that *KLIM*'s Krew or Nac Paks should be at the top of your list. Indeed, for dual-sport or adventure use, there may be nothing better.

#### Krew Pak

**SIZE:** 9"x14"x20"

**MSRP:** \$135.99

[Klim.com](http://Klim.com)

#### Nac Pak

**SIZE:** 6"x9"x18"

**MSRP:** \$95.99