

Bitesized Review

By
John Hallett Photography



Bitesized Review: Hama Track Pack III 190 backpack

Some people think that I am lucky. I prefer to think that I 'make opportunities happen'. Certainly I am not lucky in the sense that I win prizes very often (unlike my brother-in-law who seems to win raffles without even entering).

A few weeks ago a company called PicStop (www.picstop.co.uk) ran a promotion on Facebook. All you had to do was 'Share' and 'Like' their page to be entered into a draw for a backpack. Much to my surprise, a week later I was told that I had won it.

The recommended retail price of the bag is £50 but PicStop are currently selling it for just £30 (Sept 2016). To be honest I wasn't expecting much, but.....

It's a nice looking bag but doesn't instantly look like a camera bag - ideal for security & for travelling.

The fabric feels quite strong and it certainly isn't flimsy. The material is shower-proof but I wouldn't say that the bag would be water-proof because of the zips. Sadly there is no water-proof cover.

There are also no tripod straps. I never use them but some do.



The rear of the bag has two padded adjustable shoulder straps. They are tightened just by pulling the end of the strap and loosened by pulling up the end of the clip.

Some may bemoan the lack of a waist strap but personally I think that is isn't long enough to warrant one.

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One each side of the bag there is a net pocket with a drawstring. Ideal for bottles of water.



At the lower front of the bag there is the first of three zipped pockets.

This is subdivided into three areas - ideal for accessories such as filters, memory cards and remote releases.

Above that is another zipped pocket. This is deeper and wider and would easily fit a packed lunch or hat & gloves.....



..... however the opening isn't really wide enough to fit anything bulky, such as a fleece jacket.

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There's a handy carrying handle at the top of the bag.

I should mention that the quality of stitching is extremely high and I certainly can't see it falling apart any time soon.

There are two loops sewn in either side of the handle - presumably so that you can clip things to the bag.



The rear of the bag has some padded sections to cushion the weight on your back.

The drawback with all backpacks is that this is the area that is going to sit on the ground when you are accessing your gear - and then sit on your back afterwards. Not so good when the ground is muddy.

Opening the lid with the twin zippers reveals zipped pocket number three. This is also net so that you can see where things are.



And of course - the main compartment. Surprisingly deep and roomy. All of the sections velcro in place in any position and so you could configure it in any way you like. There is even a little velcro cushion to protect the rear LCD screen of your camera and a velcro strap to keep your camera in place.

You could even take all of the sections out and just use it as a day bag.

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So overall I think that it's a great bag. It won't be replacing my current bag because it simply isn't big enough. However I do intend to keep it for those times when I just want to take a few pieces of kit.

It is certainly worth the RRP of £50 but if you can grab one for £30 then it's an absolute bargain.

Pro's

- Well made
- Discrete - doesn't look like a camera bag
- Plenty of zipped pockets
- Can be configured any way that you like
- Cheap to buy

Con's

- No waist strap
- No waterproof cover
- No tripod straps

Similar products from other manufacturers are also available.

If you found this review useful please let me know by leaving a comment on my Facebook page (or just 'Like' it) at <https://www.facebook.com/johnhallettphotographs/> . Thanks