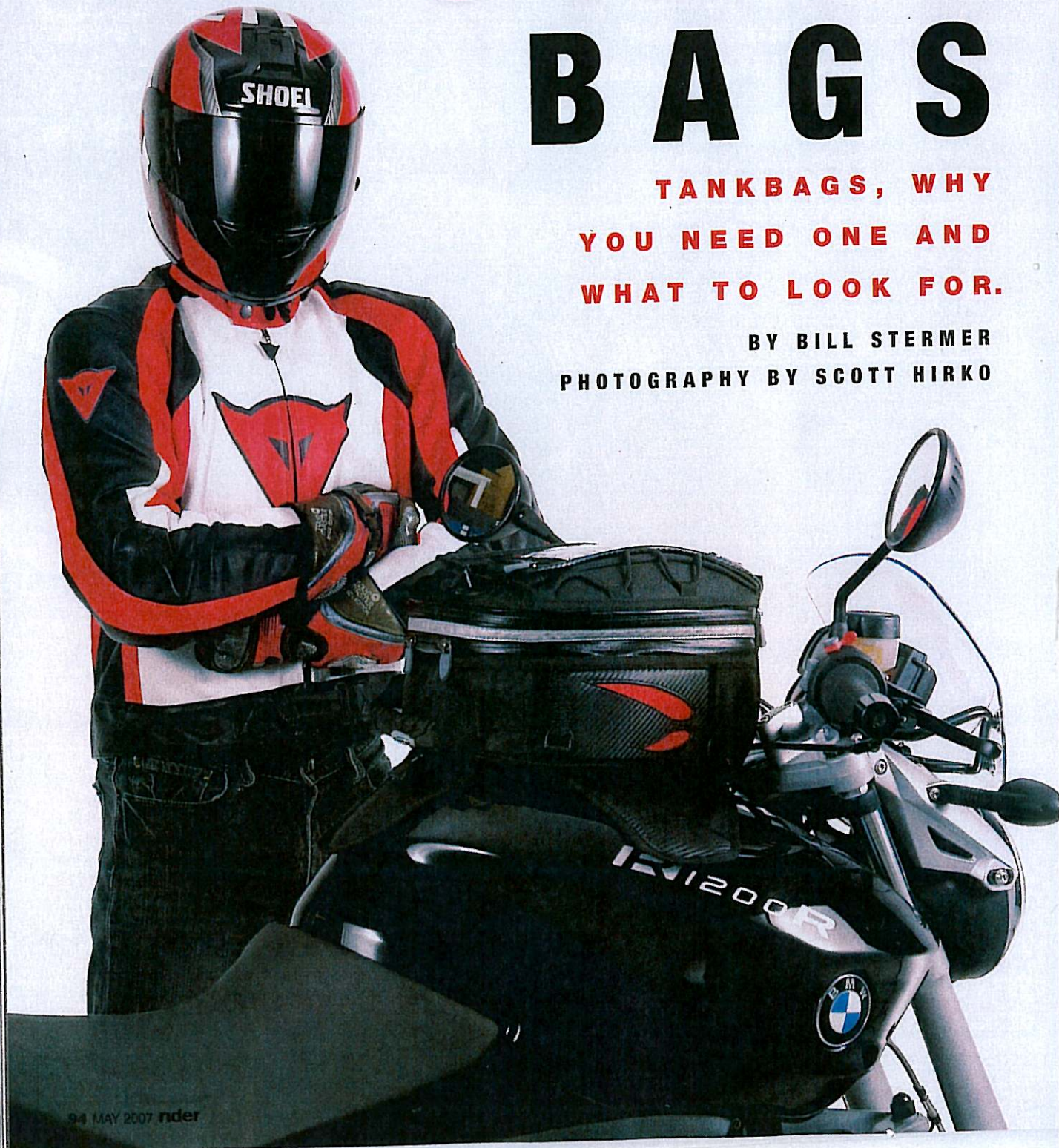


rider
TANKBAG
BUYERS GUIDE

STASH BAGS

TANKBAGS, WHY
YOU NEED ONE AND
WHAT TO LOOK FOR.

BY BILL STERMER
PHOTOGRAPHY BY SCOTT HIRKO





Dowco Fastrax Sport Elite Tankbag \$119.99

Capacity: 850 cubic inches (expanded)
 Dowco's Fastrax has so many features that studying it is like going down to the tree on Christmas morning. Made of 1680-denier polyester it's a magnetic bag that offers reflectivity, carbon fiber and color accents, the latter in your choice of nine sets of interchangeable color panels. The zippers are waterproof, but with the standard attached rain cover it doesn't really matter. Not only does it come with a short cable for a padlock, but the main zippers can be secured with a small padlock. The clear area on top is for electronic devices, with a pair of ports for the wires. A large map pouch attaches above it with hook and loop. There's storage under the lid with draw-tight elastic lines. Inside are three small mesh pockets. Finally, the expansion panel adds 4.5 inches of height to the rear of the bag. Remove the bag, snap on the shoulder straps and take a hike.

Hands-down, the Dowco Fastrax Sport Elite is one of the most fully featured tankbags here, it's sized right for most bikes and at its reasonable price it's a very good buy.

Dowco
 4230 Clipper Drive, Manitowoc, Wisconsin 54220 • (800) 558-7755 • www.dowcopowersports.com



Firstgear Silverstone II \$129.95

Capacity: 600 cubic inches (expanded)
 Here's another fully featured magnetic bag, which also radiates the look and feel of quality. Firstgear's Silverstone II is made of handsome, heavy-duty 1680-denier nylon and 1200-denier polyester, with a PVC coating. Its side and front panels resemble carbon fiber, which give it that high-tech look. Inside its lid is space for three pens, with three slit pockets for a cell phone, maps and whatever.

The magnet base can be zipped off and used as a map pouch alone, as the hidden shoulder straps in the base of the bag can be utilized to turn it into a daypack. It also comes with a rain cover and shoulder strap. The map pocket is only 6 inches wide, and the side pockets are just 8.5 inches long—not quite big enough for a pair of gloves. An expansion panel at the bottom adds an additional 1.5 inches of height, yet even so with its 600-cubic-inch capacity the bag is not quite large enough to serve as a weekender.

It's important that the tankbag does not overwhelm your bike, and the Silverstone II will complement a midsized, high-tech machine.

Firstgear
 See your Firstgear dealer • www.firstgear-usa.com



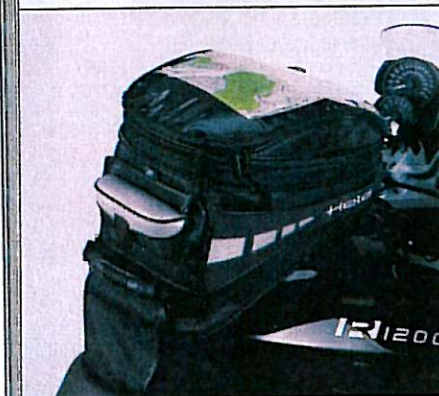
Givi T434S Arrowbag \$145.90

Capacity: 1,200 cubic inches (expanded)
 The combination of nylon with vinyl that simulates leather and carbon fiber gives the T434S Arrowbag its luxurious, high-tech look. Add to this its voluminous size and you've got an impressive product. OK, its map pouch is not quite large enough, but there's a 2-inch-deep pocket below it, and the main compartment expands by 3 inches to 8 inches deep. There are no additional pockets, mesh pockets nor an organizer.

In its strap-on version the T434S sits on a soft neoprene pad, but it offers the option of suction cups for other applications. Its rain cover looks like a shower cap, milky but with a clear section in the middle for map reading. Its padded single shoulder strap simplifies transportation.

With its size and carbon-fiber-look touches, the Givi T434S is really suited for naked and other bikes with a high-tech style. It's the kind of bag you would use on your sportbike for a weekend at the races.

Givi USA Inc.
 9309 Forsyth Drive, Charlotte, North Carolina 28273 • (877) 679-GIVI • www.giviusa.com



Held Turano \$139.99

Capacity: 1,250 cubic inches (expanded)
 This all-nylon bag blends electronic convenience with several standard features. In its lid, below the large, clear map cover, is an inch-deep area, 5.5 inches square, into which an MP3 player, radar detector, GPS or similar unit may be placed. A swatch of hook and loop is provided to adhere to the device and hold it in place, but with no port through which to pass the wires you'll leave the zipper slightly open. It's a strap-on bag that's rear pad stays strapped to the bike; the bag attaches to it with hook and loop.

At the front of the bag is a small pocket, and at the back is a soft-lined formed pocket, with a silver carbon fiber lid, specifically for sunglasses. In front of it is a fold-down pocket sized for toll coins, cash or receipts. The real appeal here is the capacious main compartment that holds 1,250 cubic inches, aided by a 4-inch expansion pleat.

The Held Turano offers European styling with some practical, modern conveniences that make it a classy blend of high-tech and high capacity.

Held USA
 1232 Commerce Street, Conover, North Carolina 28613 • (828) 464-4440 • (888) 435-3872 • www.heldusa.com