

RIDER MAGAZINE REVIEW

May 2003

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SHOP TALK

from street gear pockets to get that forgotten ignition key. These openings are really the essence of that "classic" or "mountain bike" definition. In a kneeling stance on an unladen bike, you will get a finger through the pocket openings, or even keep a finger through the front straps when you are behind a handlebar. The next happens, at least not while you're moving, or only happens a negligible amount.

The web is easy to get on and off, always a major pain with me. Who wants to struggle with ratchets when you are at the middle of the Great Plains, case coming with windshield repair on a black cloud racing toward you, and so come within 10 miles?

The price of a Frogg Togg suitcase is a reasonable \$70, and comes at six different colors. Save up from \$10-20. If your local dealer doesn't carry them, contact Frogg Togg directly at 1823 River Street, Cantonville, Indiana 46026, (888) 831-6881, or visit up www.froggtogg.com on the old computer Classic website.

GEAR ROK Strap-its

Someone has finally gone and invented the better bungie cord. These elastic ROK Strap-its won't stretch your bike's gear or fling a metal hook in the direction of your eyes, and their flat shape better distributes the elastic force and doesn't dig into your load like round bungies.

ROK offers two types of web-made Strap-its. By combining a strong, 1-inch-wide elastic section of neoprene rubber with a long nylon web strap, the versatile three-in-one elastic model stretches from 18 to 24 inches, perfect for varying loads. Back a couple of these somewhere on your bike, and you'll be able to quickly and securely strap on that big duffel or impulse bag in 10-park (even to road) and make your escape.

For securing the same regular load—like a helmet, backpack or tool box—ROK offers the 2-inch-wide Strap-its Classic in 12-, 18-, 24 and 30-inch lengths. These consist of flat, neoprene-covered natural rubber that stretches length, with a fixed nylon web loop at one end and a loop that closes



with a high-quality VSK quick-release buckle at the other. Strap-its Classic can be layered together to create any combination of their lengths, and snapping two together in the center of a load can also be faster than stretching one over two knots, tabs or lugs and then trying to close it.

The adjustable model is the cleverest and most useful. Simply loop each end around a handlebar, hook into a lug, knot, or whatever—and strap the two halves together to the middle with the quick-release buckle. Pull the free end of the nylon web strap through the friction buckle to snug it down against the tension of the elastic portion, and you're good to go. The strap won't go through the smaller holes that a metal bungee hook will, of course, and with elastic loads you're left with quite a bit of excess webbing to secure, but these are thoroughly clever ideas in this truly innovative product. Never doubt I'll see the day.

ROK recommends the use of two separate straps minimum per luggage item: the \$12 Adjustable is rated for 90 pounds and the \$18 Classic for 60 pounds each. The all-weather straps carry a 12-month warranty. Solid black Custom straps are available in addition to the colorful Mountain line. For more information see the Australian company's Web site at www.rokstrap.com. ROK Strap-

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