

Lightwave Fastpack 40 £85/€100

Made by people whose obsession with forever trimming weight off their products borders on the manic, the Lightwave Fastpack 40 is a lightweight highly water resistant rucksack, designed for long day/weekend outings to carry up to 12kgs in 'reasonable comfort'. The secret lies in its internal frame, consisting of two pre-curved tubular aluminium rods mated to an air mesh covered moulded back panel. Your hydration bladder sits cleverly between these rods, which means it takes up less space than normal and also adds some more padding to the back panel.



All seams on the main body and lid are either welded or taped so the Fastpack should be almost waterproof. Those seams attaching the back panel can't be sealed (technical reasons, I'm told but are more or less protected by your back. I'd recommend a waterproof liner in any case. The sack weighs an impressive 1050g despite using good quality mid weight fabrics, with reinforcements on hard-wear spots such as the base. The lid pocket is large enough for all your odds and ends and has a water resistant zip with two easy-grab pullers.

On the sides you've got nice long z-shaped compression straps, stretchy mesh wand pockets and ski holders at the base. These would also be good for holding axes/poles if you were worried about putting

holes in the wand pockets – twin axe/pole straps are also supplied.

This bag is a very stable, comfortable load carrier and swallowed all my normal day gear easily, with plenty of room to spare. It makes an ideal camping or winter mountaineering rucksack, I really can't find anything to gripe about. You may find similar designs which are lighter, but with practicality in mind the Fastpack 40 won't be beaten at this price. It's also available in a 50-litre version.