



(...we sleep outside the tent?) Dear, where did you put the matches?

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Buckin' Roll

INNOVATION OF THE MONTH

LONG-DISTANCE OFF-ROAD TRAVEL is the ultimate adventure. Head out into the wilderness on your dirtbike and see where the trail takes you. One problem, though, is where to put your stuff. Lots of options exist for strapping gear on the back of the bike, but it's nice to keep some things in front of you for easy access, as well as help balance the load front to back. Small tankbags are okay, but tend to get in the way when the going gets tough. They also don't work well with the tower-shaped oversize gas-tanks on "real" dirtbikes. Fortunately, there is a solution—the Buckin' Roll.

Named after a saddle feature originally used to help cowboys stay on a bucking horse, the Buckin' Roll consists of three small bags attached to a stiff backer with a nylon cinch strap on each end.

The top pouch is very small (just .5 liter) so it leaves a lot of room for the rider to move around without jeopardizing his wedding tackle, but holds a digital camera nicely. It also has an exterior mesh pocket for temporary storage of things like earplugs when not riding.

The bigger side pouches (1.5 liter each), wrap around the sides of the tank, staying roughly parallel to the rider's legs when seated. The result is very unobtrusive to the rider when seated or standing—perfect for off-road riding.

It comes with detailed mounting instructions, but it's really easy to do...if it fits your bike. Designed for water-cooled dirtbikes with vented radiator shrouds, it still doesn't fit all of them. If it does, just thread the straps through the vent areas of the shrouds and cinch them down—easy on, easy off. Mounting to a tank without shrouds (as on an air-cooled bike) is possible but requires some



creativity and extra straps (not included). It fits my 2002 Honda CR250R with an oversize Clarke tank perfectly.

To test its claims, I loaded some stuff into each pouch and hit the trails. After about four hours of pounding rough and whooped single and double track at near race-pace, the Buckin' Roll hadn't moved a bit. I didn't even have to re-tighten the straps. I can't say that I didn't even know it was there, because I did occasionally brush up against it while moving forward on the seat in a turn or leaning forward while standing. But I can honestly say that it didn't slow me down or compromise my riding style one bit.

While it fits my CR250R perfectly, it does not fit my 2003 KTM 525 EXC nearly as well. I called Giant Loop and they said it just doesn't fit some models as well as others. They did suggest you could mount it with some shock cord from the local camping store, but I'd suggest calling or emailing Giant Loop to see if it fits your model before ordering.

The Buckin' Roll is made of tough rubberized truckers' tarp and should last a long time, though Giant Loop warns that heavy sharp items like tools will eventually cause wear and tear. I didn't have the weather to test it in the rain, so I put some paper towels inside and sprayed it aggressively with the garden hose while washing the bike. Almost no water got through, so it should work well in a real downpour.

What I like about the Buckin' Roll: It stays put over rough ground, it doesn't interfere at all with my riding, it's tough, it's waterproof, and it's made in USA.

What I don't like about the Buckin' Roll: The zipper openings are small, so getting things in and out is a bit awkward, and, at 3.5 liters total volume, it doesn't hold much. It also doesn't fit some bikes as well as others.

If you fancy overnight adventures or even long day trips on your watercooled dual-sport or dirtbike, the Buckin' Roll is a great way to carry a little extra gear. It would also make a perfect companion to Giant Loop's U-shaped saddlebags (reviewed Dec. 2009). The Buckin' Roll retails for \$125 and is available directly from Giant Loop or through distributors listed on their website.

—Jim Stanley

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