

TRIED & TESTED

MCN STAFF RATE THEIR RIDING KIT



Rugged build and you barely know it's there

2000 miles ON TEST



Disc lock is one of the daily essentials

Kriega R25 £219

'Strong stability and comfort'



Tested by Dan Sutherland for two months

I've been using Kriega rucksacks as part of my daily riding for around a decade. I purchased a larger 30-litre Kriega R30 back in late 2015 and I've been a fan ever since.

For my latest test, I've switched to the smaller R25 which – as you might have guessed – features a 25-litre capacity.

Space inside the bag is split between a 20-litre central compartment with a roll-top fastening and inner dry sack, plus a zip-up five litre front pouch, which I've used for essentials like keys, wallet, and a small Oxford disc lock.

Reflective straps on the front and rear add a nice additional layer of visibility and there's a sturdy upper carry handle when it's not on your back.

Like my larger R30, the 25 uses a 'Quadloc' harness system, which transfers the weight of the bag's contents from your shoulders to

your chest. It's a little more awkward to adjust than a conventional bag, but once in place properly, it delivers a big boost in comfort and also improves bag stability in high winds.

I like to wear a chest and back protector vest within my riding jackets and doing so seems to provide an even better fit for the Kriega's strapping design. But I don't like wearing it off the bike in conventional clothes, due to the bulky nature of the straps.

One of the reasons I was keen to test the R25 is because the R30 has been so reliable for my daily commute, but can be a little flappy when not entirely full. Being smaller, the new R25 fills much more quickly but will take everything I need for an average day.

The front pocket will carry the everyday items, but the side zip design can make rummaging for small items like keys that bit harder than with a conventional upper zip design. You can't see in, so you're searching by feel. It's not the end of the world, but I always

seem to lose what I'm after when I'm in a rush.

Sticking with the front pocket, although it's never leaked through the material, a small breather hole at the very bottom of the front pouch has let some water in during the heaviest of downpours. It's unlikely to do damage to anything, but I'd wrap up important documents like passports, just to be sure.

Outside of that, it's well made, looks great, and feels like it will stand up to years of abuse – backed up by a 10-year guarantee.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.kriega.com

PROS & CONS

- + Well made, ten year warranty, sturdy straps
- Awkward front pocket has allowed for some water ingress

The main compartment is waterproof and has a decent capacity



Quadloc system spreads the load perfectly