

TRIED & TESTED

MCN STAFF RATE THEIR RIDING KIT



2600 miles ON TEST

Stable with great weight distribution



Quadloc-Lite uses a single buckle and is very secure



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A Suzuki GSX-8S
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Kriega R22 £179

'Bags of quality'



Tested by Steve Herbert-Mattick for five months

A bag is a bag, right? And so at first glance, the £180 price tag attached to Kriega's latest mid-capacity rucksack seems extortionate. An almost anonymous black lump, with a single, large, main compartment, a slim outer pocket on the front and that's it. Just get a black bag for £20 off the high street and be done with it. Right?

Well, no. Firstly, Kriega's luggage is designed by bikers, for bikers. This is my third of their back packs over the last 20 years and I've never had one break. Even tumbling down the road in a 50mph crash, my ageing R35 escaped with a single scuff. They are so well made and will likely last a lifetime.

The R22 then (taking its name from its capacity) has a waterproof 18-litre main

compartment, lined with a removable, washable lining and a simple roll-top closure. There's a 4-litre non-waterproof front pocket (that doesn't actually let water in), the two providing enough room to take my laptop, lunch and gym kit on my daily commute.

The Quadloc-Lite™ harness does an excellent job of distributing weight evenly so that even on a recent 500-mile, 15-hour ride I didn't have any fatigue across my shoulders or upper body. The moulded, padded straps and air-mesh back panel make it extremely comfortable to wear and with light loads I barely notice I've got it on.

Other features are equally well-considered, from the tough and easily adjustable compression straps to keep the load stable on the move, to the removable waist strap for extra support if needed, reflective details, and the stitched dots on the straps that act as

guide markers for making sure they're adjusted equally on both sides. Loops on the front of the bag are designed for attaching an additional pouch, it's compatible with a hydration pack (you have to get them separately), and comes with a 10 year warranty. That's £18 a year for a bag that will in all likelihood last many years more. You won't get that from your local sports shop
Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.kriega.com

PROS & CONS

- +** Space, waterproofing, adjustability, ruggedness
- Even though it's worth it, it's still a lot of money

4ltr front pocket for easy access while compression straps keep load stable



Dot markers on the straps help you adjust evenly