

## **AllTuff Bike Medic Bag**

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There are numerous manufacturers of bike bags and panniers used by EMS cyclists to carry their medical equipment, including Jandd, Iron Duck, Arkel-OD and R & B Fabrications, all of which have been tried by this writer. One of the newer entries into the field, and one certainly worth considering, is the AllTuff Bike Medic Bag made in Fort Wayne, IN.

I had the opportunity to evaluate this product in the months prior to the 2006 IPMBA Conference when putting a student-based EMS response unit into service at the University of Pennsylvania. I contacted a staff member at AllTuff who was extremely helpful and I was able to obtain a sample of the bag. I am certainly glad I did. It was impressive enough that I purchased four sets for the student EMT staff to use while responding to medical emergencies on the campus.

It was obvious that careful thought went into the design and layout of the bag so that it would properly serve the end users. Paramedic Andrew Mowery of the Three Rivers Ambulance Service in Fort Wayne provided much of the technical advice to help AllTuff determine their specifications. Like most of the bags on the market, the AllTuff is made of heavy duty 1000 denier Cordura nylon for strength and wear resistance. But it is the other features that make the bag stand out.

There is a large top compartment that can accommodate various size AEDs and either an M-6 or C size oxygen cylinder and support equipment such as spare electrodes, OA devices, intubation equipment or other gear. The Velcro divider is easily adjusted and the clear plastic internal covering makes for quick ID of the equipment. The AED and O2 cylinder are positioned in the top bag to center the load and distribute the weight over the rear wheel instead of having them in a side pannier where the strut of the rack system would need to bear the weight. This top bag is somewhat larger than some of the other bags on the market, so getting used to performing a dismount and clearing the bag may take some time for those accustomed to a smaller bag.

There are two side panniers, each containing color-coded, pull-out pouches. This allows for the standardization of equipment from bike to bike. Both side panniers have tapered leading edges so that the rider's heels do not strike the bags during the pedal stroke motion. But even if it does, the leading edge of each bag is reinforced with extra overlaying vinyl material.

In addition to these pannier bags, there are two rear-facing compartments for smaller items such as IV bags, a roll-up rain gear set, a multi-tool and spare inner tube, personal water bottle or other such equipment.

Each bag, that is, the top, two side panniers and two rear facing bags, are equipped with reflective striping for visibility. All of these compartments are padded to protect the equipment and are connected to one another with alligator clips for quick disconnect if the entire bike can not access a particular area or if the bags have to be carried separately. Each bag also has YKK zippers with lockable double pulls, a nice feature to consider for securing cardiac drugs and medications. The entire system connects to the rear rack with dual Velcro connections so that they do not bounce around and/or drape into the spokes of the wheel and become damaged. Note: the strut design of any rear rack system needs to be considered when using side panniers.

Like the Ford Model T of yesteryear, the AllTuff bag is stocked in black only. However, if you would like another color, AllTuff's staff is more than willing to work with you – there might be a short production and delivery time delay but it can be produced. The AllTuff bike medic bag is well constructed and clearly designed for use in the field and should be considered when purchasing bike bags. It can be viewed at [www.alltuff.com](http://www.alltuff.com) or by calling 877-866-0374.

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