

TECH & GEAR REVIEWS BY NANCY BIRNBAUM

ADK Packbasket



Like most boaters, I'm always on the hunt for the perfect boat bag. And as a cruising sailor, I know that anything that I bring onboard must have more than one use. The newest design from ADK Packworks happens to fit the bill.

First a short disclosure: I LOVE bags. But I especially love bags that can multitask as well as I do. With that said, when I came across the Packbasket by ADK, I just had to have one. (Well... make that two. My husband said that he wants one as well).

What makes this bag different from the rest of the pack? Functionality and a great design. The exceptionally versatile Packbasket was inspired by the 150-year-old Adirondack baskets used to carry heavy loads in the mountains.

"There has been no evolution in the reusable grocery bag over the years and we felt that there needed to be an alternate solution that was still environmentally conscious, but increased the overall function ability as well. We came up with the inspiration for our original bag from the most timeless utility pack ever invented, the Adirondack pack basket from upstate New York". Originally made out of wood, the ADK pack



basket was special because of its ability to stand up straight. "A typical reusable grocery bag today lacks structure, but the stand-alone design of The Packbasket allows for improved performance when loading and unloading, which also lets you pack each bag more efficiently," said Doug Rumbough, co-founder of Vergennes, Vermont-based ADK Packworks.

The Packbasket, which is about the size of your average paper grocery bag (15 inches X 11.5 inches X 8 inches), includes a semi-rigid internal frame that can also be removed for washing. It folds flat for easy storage and is lightweight, made from durable ripstop nylon, eco-friendly and... (wait there's more!). It can be used either with the super-strong handles, the shoulder strap, the backpack attachment, or as panniers for your bicycle with the addition of the Bicycle Pannier System. Plus you can also add the handy Packbasket Cooler Liner (\$6) for those provisioning trips ashore.

The basic model starts at \$29.99. The company just released two new styles: the Packbasket Canvas and the Packbasket Prints. Both would make a great gift! ■



Imray Nautical

If a European cruise or charter is in your future sailing plans, then you'll certainly want to take the newest cruising guides. Fortunately, Imray has you covered with their new Nautical App for iPad.

Since so many boaters now use iPads for navigation (or as backup to their chartplotters), Imray wanted to join the fun and offer their excellent Marine Pilotage and Almanac books to run on their very own app.

The Imray Nautical app (a free download from iTunes) allows you to buy only the areas that you are cruising: England, North Sea, France, Channel Islands and European Inland Waterways, Ireland, Spain and Portugal, Ionian Sea and the Isles of Sicily. All are available as In-App purchases and range in price from £3.99 (\$5.00USD) to £9.99 (\$12.79 USD).

With interactive features, the Guides offer much more than your paper ones do. Consider up-to-date comprehensive pilotage information, navigation and passage notes plus history, food and drink, places of interest on the coast and inland. Zoom in to see high-quality harbor pans, views from both sea and air, coastal radio and VHF data, Tidal data, weather information, and you can even share pages by email and on your social networks.

Sailors across the pond know that Imray is the leading chart and marine book publisher with a catalogue of yachting charts that covers Europe, the Mediterranean and the Caribbean. Having started way back in the 18th century, Imray folks knows these waters like the back of their hands.

Just released: The Cruising Almanac 2015 for iPad First produced over 100 years ago, this annual publication is regarded as the perfect on-board companion for cruising yachts. Compiled with the help of the cruising association, it covers northwest Europe in seven geographical sections from the Shetlands and southern Norway to Gibraltar and west Ireland to the Baltic. The Almanac is available as an In-App purchase and costs £9.99 (\$12.79 USD). ■

