

# Head to Head

## Bike Oriented Backpacks

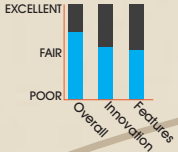
### How I used it

Used in bursts of 2 or 3 months, over the last 2 years or so, for work, commuting, travel & play.



### How it fared

It's a great looking backpack that is only OK with tech or big loads.



Chrome Ivan

Mission workshop Vandal



### How I used it

Used in bursts of 1 or 2 months, over the last year or so, for travel, work, commuting & play.



### How it fared

It's a dependable backpack that innovates in lots of ways creating a very versatile pack for commuters.



**Loving :** The Ivan has lost nothing with age. It's a great looking pack that feels grown-up enough to take to work, but relaxed enough to have at the pub or on a surf trip.

**Not Loving :** The matte polyester fabric can attract a bit of lint/fluff/flecks-of-weirdness, and as far as bags go, this one is pretty heavy (4.4 lbs).

### Look & Feel

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**Loving :** This bag sheds water without even twitching, and can hide it's potential size reasonably discreetly.

**Not Loving :** It feels more techie than the Chrome, with shinier fabric, more zips, and more plastic. The net result is it misses out on some of the cool.

**Loving :** The roll-top section is super water-tight, hiding a welded tarp bag behind the outer layer of Cordura.

**Not Loving :** There is a lack of pocketing for modern amounts of tech, and if you overfill the bag, it becomes tube-like, pulling back on your shoulders.

### Performance & Comfort

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**Loving :** The Vandal can grow to swallow a fridge, which is a great trick when travelling or riding home via the grocery store.

**Not Loving :** That central expanding section is a little awkward to utilise when in compressed mode, and there could be better pocket layout.

**Loving :** Big metal components and avoidance of most zips make the Ivan feel like there's little that can go wrong. The bag should last through many years of hard use.

**Not Loving :** There's no direct attempts to produce an eco considered bag, but making a long lasting pack is the most important anyways.

### Quality & Sustainability

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**Loving :** It's a well made, well spec'd backpack that should serve it's owner well for many years.

**Not Loving :** With more plastic components and more zips, our pick would be for the Ivan to beat it in a marathon of durability.

**Loving :** At \$180 US, the Ivan is good value for the amount of work that has gone into it. That's still not cheap, but quality rarely is.

**Not Loving :** I would struggle to have this as my only bag. It is big, and has quite a presence wherever it goes. It means I'd want a smaller bag to tag team.

### Price & Value

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**Loving :** The Vandal is versatile enough that it could almost be your one bag for all things. It's light enough, and can grow as you need it to.

**Not Loving :** At \$260 US, this is certainly more expensive than the Ivan. However there is a lot more going on with it, justifying the price difference.

**Loving :** Looks matter, especially when they are guided by function. While the Vandal might be a more complete and versatile pack, it's still the Ivan I reach for when I want my wife to think I might have an ounce of cool in me.

**Not Loving :** Weight, intimidating size (you need to be broad shouldered), and lack of good pocketing all hurt this pack as a day to day carry.

### Overall

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2

**Loving :** Incredible versatility and some really novel arrangements mean that this pack will influence many that follow. A great travel companion to boot.

**Not Loving :** It feels like a few niggles related to such an innovative step hold it back. A second generation of the Vandal might just be able to come back and pip the Ivan next time round...