



## Mountainsmith AT 55 / CDT 45 ♀

"A good friend on long trails," said our tester after hammering the (men's) AT 55 for 45 days and 500 miles, including a 292-mile thru-hike of the combined High Sierra and John Muir Trails. He loved the simple packbag, which loads easily, and the comfortable, supportive hipbelt and backpanel, calling the pack an "overperformer" even with loads of 40 to 50 pounds. "The pivoting hipbelt's freedom of motion was another highlight," he said, "since it kept high-stacked loads stable on steep switchbacks like Forester Pass." Stash pockets on the packbag and hipbelt kept trail necessities handy. Overall, our tester dubbed the AT 55 a sleek, efficient, well-organized hauler that's nimble even under a full load. Gripes: The hydration pocket is too small for large bladders, and some plastic reinforcing on the hipbelt cracked during testing. *M/W: \$199/\$179; 3,143/2,929 cu. in.; 4 lbs. 1 oz./3 lbs. 3 oz.; 2 sizes each*