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High Sierra 22" Switch Blade

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High Sierra Switch Blade: Durable and Convenient

Written: Mar 16 '10

Product Rating: ★★★★★ **Pros:** Tough exterior; Easy to carry; A good number of compartments

Cons: Mesh compartment takes up much interior space

The Bottom Line: This is a very good duffel bag for many uses.

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Bryan_Carey's Full Review: High Sierra 22" Switch Blade

Luggage is essential for the traveler, but sometimes a full piece of luggage is more than is necessary. Sometimes, a smaller, soft-sided bag is more practical and easier to use. It also doesn't hurt if this bag can be used for purposes besides traveling and one bag that fits this description is the **High Sierra Switch Blade Sport Duffel**, a multi-purpose bag.

Duffel Bag Facts:

The High Sierra Switch Blade Sport Duffel is a medium-size duffel bag measuring about 22 inches in length, 10 inches in width, and 10 inches in height. The bag is constructed from thick nylon with a U-shaped, zipper opening for the main compartment; a top-loading compartment with CD player pocket and headphone port; a mesh compartment on the outside end for storing wet items; a zippered front accessory pocket; and a mesh water bottle pocket. The interior of the bag contains 1,825 cubic inches of space.

This duffel bag offers two means for carrying: A velcro-wrap handle and a detachable shoulder strap with non-slip pad. An elastic shock cord and monster hook exist for attaching extra gear and the bag is offered in four different colors: Charcoal, Blue, Blossom, Chipotle, and Red, all with black accents.

Final Thoughts:

High Sierra Switch Blade Sport Duffel is a very nice duffel bag good for many occasions or purposes. This duffel bag is constructed with sports in mind, but it can be used for a multitude of purposes, ranging from travel, to school, and beyond.

I own several different duffel bags and I tend to use mine for one of two things: As a book bag, to carry my teaching materials or as a travel bag when my suitcases are too large for the occasion. For travel, most any duffel bag will do because clothing is light and it doesn't take much for a bag to carry it. But books are different. I have some large, bulky teaching guides that have already ruined some of my weaker duffel bags because, after continuous use, they caused the strap handle to tear loose from the body of the bag. Because of this, I knew I needed another duffel bag for this purpose. I selected the High Sierra Switch Blade Sport Duffel because of my previous, positive experience with High Sierra and because of the physical qualities of this bag. It seemed tough and durable, and I felt it could easily stand up to my large books and binders.

Before we talk more about the physical strength of this duffel bag, let's talk first about the size and compartments. Like I said, this duffel bag is made with sports in mind and this is obvious when you look at the different compartments. On the top, to one side, you have a compartment intended to hold a CD player. It has a small opening so that the cord to your headphones can stick out of the top, with the CD player safely protected inside. The large pocket underneath is accessible from the outside and is intended for multiple uses. On the opposite side, there is a mesh opening for wet items and on the front, there is a narrow pocket with a zipper opening. With this many compartments, users should have no problem storing what they need to store.

All of these compartments are handy, but I will be the first to admit that the mesh pocket isn't really large enough for its intended purpose. The mesh and zippered opening is on the outside, but the bulk of this pocket actually extends within the bag, with a waterproof backing. The problem is that, if you use this for, say, a wet towel, it will extend far inside and take up much of the interior space. The large pocket on the other side is different in design- it remains entirely on the outside and doesn't interfere with interior space. For this reason, I usually don't even use the mesh pocket. The inside of my High Sierra Switch Blade Sport Duffel is already loaded and because of this, there is no space to use the mesh pocket. Granted, I don't use my bag for sporting

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Beer Drinker and Libertarian Political Activist. Great Combination, eh?

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purposes anyway and I don't need to store wet items, but this is, after all, a sports bag and those who buy it for this purpose may find this bag inadequate.

Now, let's talk about the strength of this duffel bag. The outside of this bag is tough and thick, and it can withstand much abuse. I use mine to haul around books, which are known for their added weight and strain on a bag. Unlike my previous duffel bag (the one with the strap handle that tore off), there is no worry that this handle will tear. In fact, I have no worries that anything will tear. Everything has remained intact so far and I based on the way the bag has held up and my previous experience with High Sierra, I have confidence that this bag will last for many years.

Because the mesh pocket can take up extra space on the inside of the bag, the interior is limited. As a matter of fact, even if you don't use the mesh pocket (like me), you will likely still find that the interior is a tad small. I am able to fit my large books inside, but barely- one more book, and I would be unable to fit everything inside. This is why you need to carefully consider your own need for space before you purchase this duffel bag. It may not be adequate for those who have a large number of books to carry at once or who need to use the bag for a large amount of clothing and/or accessories. This bag is only medium in size, so it may not be adequate for all uses.

Overall, the High Sierra Switch Blade Sport Duffel is a very good duffel bag for those with a limited need for space and it makes a good choice for many different uses. The padded shoulder strap makes it easy to carry around and it contains enough compartments to store most of your goods and accessories. It could be too small for some purposes, but for those who need only a moderate amount of storage space, the High Sierra Switch Blade Sport Duffel is a very good choice in a very crowded market.

Recommended:
Yes

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