

Flying Circle Brazos Concealed Carry Backpack

I'VE been writing for *S.W.A.T. Magazine* for almost 16 years. Over that time, I've had the honor of meeting some great men and women in the industry and making some friendships that will last forever. I've also been able to use some great gear, which I've written about in the column.

I learned quickly as a young man the need for a quality pack. I was 19 years old and riding bulls in Payson, Arizona. The town was closed off for the rodeo dance, so I was forced to park half a mile away and walk. Less than a block away from the truck, my cheap gear bag ripped out and my gear went everywhere.

A cowboy's gear bag is worse than an old lady's purse. I was lucky enough to win third place on the ride, so I put most of the winnings into a quality bag and never had that problem again.

Long-time readers know I have a soft spot for quality packs. A new pack I have been evaluating from Flying Circle Gear is one of the better ones I have used in a while. The name of the



Each side of pack has built-in zippered pouches with MOLLE webbing to attach even more gear.



Rear of Flying Circle Brazos Concealed Carry Backpack has four compartments, each with slip-proof zipper pulls.

pack is the Brazos Concealed Carry Backpack. It has more than 20 pockets, and I will describe some of the most noticeable/usable ones.

The Brazos Concealed Carry Backpack measures 16.5 inches wide x 19 high x 12 deep. It is constructed of durable 900-denier polyester water-resistant fabric.

The shoulder straps are padded, fully adjustable, and have quick-detach buckles at the bottom. The sternum strap has a quick-release buckle as well. MOLLE webbing at the top of the shoulder straps is for additional gear. The left strap has a pocket large enough for a cell phone, small GPS, or compass. The pack also has two compression straps with quick-detach buckles.

The waist belt is about four inches wide, with six rows of MOLLE webbing. On each side, a zippered pocket about three inches long and three inches deep could hold a small billfold or miscellaneous items like lip balm. A large quick-release buckle attaches in the front. The belt is also fully removable if desired. The back of the pack,

the side that is against the user, is covered in a mesh-like netting to allow it to breathe and keep cooler. The back is also fully padded for comfort.

On the outside of the pack are two pockets. The top pocket can hold items about six inches long and two inches wide. Inside this pocket is a plastic sleeve for an ID and a plastic clip for keys.

The bottom front pocket is larger, with four rows of MOLLE webbing. The top portion is covered in Velcro for a nametape and patches. The zippers (in fact, all the main zippers on the pack) have non-slip pull cords. It is big enough for a good-size first aid kit or a couple of MREs. It also has a smaller zippered pocket inside.

The backpack has two middle main compartments. The closest to the front zips completely open on all three sides to lay the pack open. One side has nylon mesh so you can see all your loose items. The other side has three rows of MOLLE webbing. On the same side is a large nylon pocket that takes up over half the inside. It is sealed with hook-



Small pouch on left shoulder strap is well placed for a mobile phone, small GPS, compass, etc.

What do all these industry leaders have in common?



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and-loop fasteners to keep items from getting dirty.

The other pocket of the main pack also zips down all three sides. The side closest to the front has three zippered pockets about 7.5 inches long that are between 8.5 and 6 inches deep. A 4x3-inch zippered pocket and one that closes with Velcro complete this side. On the side opposite this is a large nylon pocket secured with Velcro.

Having two main compartments that zip down makes the pack efficient for carrying large items.



Removable waist belt has a zippered pouch on each side.

On each side of the pack are two small gear pockets (four total) with MOLLE webbing. These pockets are ideal for items you may want to access immediately without opening and digging through the pack. The pack has two grab handles: one on the top and one on the side.

The very last compartment on the back is the hidden "pass through" pocket. It has zippers on both sides, making it a convenient concealed carry compartment. There are no straps or holster, so it does not limit the size of pistol you choose to carry. Also if you use this pack when traveling, you can zip down both sides and slip it over the handle of your rolling suitcase.

Overall I am quite taken with the Flying Circle Brazos Concealed Carry Backpack and look forward to putting it to hard use. It would be ideal for search and rescue, as a law enforcement "jump bag," or for prepared citizens. It would also make a great bug-out bag to keep by the bedside or in a vehicle. Suggested retail price is \$134.95. ©

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