

User Manual

G5 Hyperlight Pack

Recommendations for Use

Initial Packing

To see if the G5 will work for you and maintain your ability to return it for a refund if you decide it will not, in accordance with our return policy, load it up with your normal gear and try it on around the house and/or around the block. The main concepts in packing the G5 are to keep the pack "full", maintain a high center of gravity, and keep items accessed most often nearer the top. First, stow the sleeping bag in the bottom of the pack. Since the G5 seams are not sealed, we recommend using a trash compactor bag or mylar turkey roasting bag (on the inside of the pack) for protecting your sleeping bag and clothes. We recommend dispensing with the weight of a stuff sack and just stowing the sleeping bag directly into the trash compactor or mylar bag in the pack. Since it has a limited "frame", the G5 carries better when "full". Thus, it works better to leave your sleeping bag packed more loosely so it can take up space. When you need additional space, like right after a resupply, you can pack the sleeping bag a little tighter. The bottom of the pack is expanded to provide area for your sleeping bag and minimize loss of loft from over-compression. Packing the sleeping bag on the bottom helps raise the center of gravity. Next pack your clothes, also within the protective turkey or trash bag. Next put in your other gear and finally your food. Comfort is improved by keeping hard objects away from your back, but heavy items are best placed closer to the back to minimize the pull on the shoulders. Next, pack the shoulder straps and waist belt either with clothing items normally unused during the day, like sleeping socks, gloves, etc, or with the foam inserts provided. Since the foam inserts are used for several different packs, some minor snipping of the foam may be necessary for use in your pack. The foam can be cut with normal household scissors. Then insert your sleeping pad in the pad holders. We recommend a SitLight™ sit pad, NightLight™ torso pad or a Z-Lite™ pad cut down to six sections (30") in length. (Note – the Z-Lite™ pad "dimples" do compress with use, so you will end up periodically replacing the pad), but almost any pad that is 20" wide will work. Before putting the pack on, loosen the shoulder straps and unbuckle the waist belt. Use the haul loop to lift the pack, and put it on. Tighten the waist belt first, securing the pack around your waist/hips where you find it most comfortable. Then tighten the shoulder straps. With the pack on, see how it fits your particular body type and load. Remember, the G5 is designed for base pack weights of 10 lbs. or less, and total pack weights of 25 lbs. or less.

On the Trail

For packing, sit on your pad and stow the sleeping bag. When you take off your sleeping socks, stuff them into the shoulder straps for padding. You may be wearing your hat and gloves to start, and may have nothing to put in the waist belt. However, if it is cold, you will be wearing your jacket, which provides padding. If you start out early in the morning, you may be wearing most of your clothes. Loading your pockets with food for the morning will allow you not to have to stop to remove food from your pack. When the day warms up and you stop to strip clothing, we recommend putting the clothing below the food, since the clothing is usually less dense, and packing the clothes below the food will raise the center of gravity. If your tarp/tent/ground cloth is damp, it can be placed in the large back pocket. Placing the wet tarp in the outside pocket will keep it away from your dry gear, and it may dry a little. The Silnylon G5 comes with an internal hydration pocket perfect for water bladders. The side pockets are also designed to store water, as well as your first aid kit and "ten essential" items that you want to have ready access to. Once your pack is packed, you can get up, fold up your pad, and slip it into the back of the pack. Your G5 comes with a roll-top closure. Slip the front top of the extension collar under the rear top hook fastener. Roll the top of the extension collar away from the shoulder straps two or three times, like rolling the top of a potato chip bag, with the hook fastener 'tabs' sticking out of the ends. Then grab the two tabs and fasten them to the loop fastener strips on the side of the pack so as to keep the top snugly closed. Keep in mind that the seams are not sealed, so even with the roll top, you will need an additional method to protect against persistent rain. If you are using a water bladder with a hose in the internal hydration pocket, you will need to route the hose out of the top of the pack before rolling the top closed. Just pull the hose to one side of the extension collar where the velcro tab is located and then roll the rest of the collar and fasten.

Fit

For the best fit, we recommend loosening the shoulder straps and waist belt each time you take off the pack. When you put the pack on, fasten the waist belt, hike the pack up on your hips, tighten the waist

belt then tighten the shoulder straps. This will avoid stressing the pack and help it last longer, and get you the best possible fit each time. Most people find that the best size of pack for them is one that results in the shoulder straps being level or slightly up from the shoulders.

Care

Your G5 pack is constructed of extremely lightweight materials. One of the tradeoffs of designing with lightweight materials is reduced durability. The design and materials have been tested over hundreds of trail miles, but your G5 pack requires a higher standard of care than other packs. The G5 will not last as long or endure the same abuse as other packs. If you want it to last, you need to 'baby' it. With the best of care it may still need to be repaired or replaced after a few months on the trail. Each time you head out on a trip, check over your pack carefully and repair or reinforce any areas showing wear. The silicone-coated ripstop nylon is susceptible to abrasion. Pay attention when you are ducking under barbed wire fences and squeezing between rocks or through prickly brush. If you do a lot of these activities, the G5 is probably not the pack for you. When you pick up or take off your full pack, always use the haul loop. When setting it down, be sure that the pack is resting on the heavier oxford material on the back and the bottom. Never sit or rest on a loaded pack.

Personal Customizing/User Tips

There are several things you may want to consider to personalize your pack. For more rainy climes, you might consider seam-sealing the inside seams. Use a 50/50 mixture of silicon caulking and white gas, and paint it on. If your hiking clothes don't have a lot of pockets, you could order some lycra mesh and sew small pockets onto the shoulder or waist straps to carry small items that you want to have handy. To save weight, you should trim the waist belt to size. Be sure to take into account that you may be wearing additional layers, and don't cut it too short. After cutting, seal the end with a flame, and sew back over on itself to prevent it from slipping through the buckle. One way to transfer more load to the waist belt is by inserting rods into the folds of the sleep pad that is used as the "frame" in the pad holder. The bumps of the NightLight™ pad hold the rods in place during use. Fiberglass rods, aluminum arrow shafts, and even tent poles are all possible materials for the rods.

Design Insights

The goal of this section is to give you insights as to the various design features of the G5 pack. It may not exactly suit the way you backpack, but may give you ideas, or at least answer some questions you have about the various aspects of the pack.

Employing "dual use" technology obviously figured highly in the design of the G5. Weight is minimized by using your sleeping pad as a "frame", and unused socks and clothing as padding for the shoulder straps and waist belt. Designing the pad to be on the outside of the pack allows you to be sitting on it in the cold morning as you are packing up, as it can be the last thing you pack. It also permits easy removal during the day for sitting on during rest stops, or lying on for naps, as you wait for your more heavily-laden friends to catch up.

When you get pack weights down below 8 ounces, fabric such as the 210 denier double wall ripstop has to be used sparingly, and webbing becomes one of the heavier components. For this reason, the use of the 210 denier ripstop is limited to areas of stress where shoulder straps and waist belts connect to the pack body, and where needed for abrasion resistance. Lengths and widths of webbing are minimized.

