

MICROBYTES

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Chico Bag

The U.S. consumes 100 billion plastic bags annually, burning through about 12 million barrels of oil to produce them, and paper bag production is even worse, requiring four times as much energy to manufacture. The Chico Bag (\$5) is a 16"x14" reusable nylon shopping bag with a 20lb. capacity that stuffs into an integrated 3"x4" drawstring pouch. They come in a variety of colors, are small enough to always keep on hand and could help cut back on the 300-700 plastic bags each person consumes every year. Worn out bags can be returned to Chico and converted into other products. Made in China. www.store.chicobag.com



Take A Look Mirror

See what's speeding up behind you at a glance with Bike Peddler's Take A Look Mirror (\$15). This 1.5"x1.25" optically correct acrylic mirror has three rotating prongs to attach to eyeglasses or a helmet visor. The stainless steel and brass frame features three pivot points to locate that sweet spot over your shoulder. With the addition of the helmet adaptor (\$4), the mirror can be attached to the inside of a helmet via double-sided tape and plastic tabs. (Not recommended for the compact mirror version). Made in the U.S.A. www.pacelineproducts.com

Adventure Medical Kits Ultralight .3

Be prepared for that unexpected "bad" crash or insect sting with a first aid kit along on the ride. The Ultralight .3 (\$11) is packed to handle basic wounds, blisters and stings. It weighs a mere 3oz. and contains the essentials like gauze dressings, butterfly closures, adhesive tape and a few medications all tucked into a waterproof bag and stored in a 4.5"x3.75" ripstop nylon pouch. Adventure Medical Kits makes a large variety of affordable kits depending on group size, duration and sport to cover just about any emergency. Assembled in the U.S.A. of imported components. www.adventuremedicalkits.com



Jelly Belly Extreme Sport Beans

Not just another bean, Extreme Sport Beans pack a 50mg caffeine punch per 1oz. serving for when you need that extra kick in the pants to finish the ride. That's about as much caffeine as half a cup of coffee. They also contain 25g of carbohydrates, 80mg of sodium, 40mg of potassium, and some B and C vitamins to fuel the body. At about \$1 a bag these tasty treats travel easily in any jersey pocket or hydration pack. Available in cherry or watermelon flavor. Made in the U.S.A. www.sportbeans.com



Platypus Big Zip SL

Replace that old slimy, bacteria-filled bladder with a Platypus Big Zip SL. This redesigned bladder has a new SlideLock closure for easier cleaning, a SlimeGuard anti-microbial taste-free treatment, and is manufactured from a more flexible material. It also has a quick disconnect fitting that allows for bladder removal without un-routng the hose. The HyperFlow bite valve features a 90° shut off valve to keep the fluid from accidentally leaking out. The Big Zip SL is available in three sizes, 1.8L, 2.0L, and 3.0L for \$27-29. Made in the U.S.A. www.platypushydration.com

Princeton Tec Swerve

In the never-ending battle to baffle drivers and keep riders safe, Princeton Tec created the Swerve (\$30) tail light. This blinky is freak-out bright. It has two high-powered LEDs in combination with one diffused and one collimated lens to spin onlookers into multiple beam hysteria. An easy-to-locate toggle switch activates the steady or flash mode and 2 AAA batteries (included) power the unit for 70 hours. The O-ring mounting system can be attached to a large variety of tubes or posts, or use the clip mount for attaching it to a bag. Made in China. www.princetonotec.com

