

## ●● Product Reviews

# Touratech Tank Bag ●●●●●

**T**OURATECH'S NEW TANK bag is specifically molded to fit the wethead R1200RT's contours, with a standard capacity of 10 liters, expandable to 15 liters. It is stoutly constructed of a water, dust and fade resistant Teflon-coated Cordura material, similar to premium riding suits. The exterior has two 4.5x5.5-inch side pockets, plus a reflective bungee net facing the rider. The top of the bag is dominated by a clear rectangular pocket measuring 10x11-inches, reducing the need to fold maps into diminutive shapes. The map pocket is attached by Velcro and easily removed, revealing a smaller 4.5x9-inch clear pocket underneath. Inside, there is another Velcro-secured clear pocket for electronic devices. A convenient pass-through at the bottom front of the bag allows access for a power cable to charge stored electronics. The bag features a carry handle and straps that transform it into a backpack for functionality off the bike.

Installation is a breeze; install the bayonet buckle mount at the top of the tank, then the large Velcro patch at the tank base using existing OEM hardware. Fitment is purpose-built for this BMW model, following the contours of the gas tank perfectly.

On the road, the Touratech bag repeatedly proved its functionality in myriad ways. The expansion from 10-liter to 15-liter capacity is quick, via a single zipper, raising the height of the



**Installation of the Touratech Tank Bag is a breeze.**

bag is only water resistant and offers a separate, dedicated rain cover (#055-0069) for extended downpours. Including about a dozen hours of rain riding during testing, everything inside the tank bag remained bone dry without the use of the rain cover.

Comparing the Touratech Expandable Tank Bag to BMW's own offering for the R1200RT (part #77458543227)—which I also own: Both bags are similarly priced, but the Touratech offers 15 liters of capacity to BMW's 11, two large external pockets to the BMW's single small one, Teflon-coated, abrasion resistant Cordura material to the BMW's chintzier PVC-coated polyester, the addition of the charging cable pass-through, and of course the gargantuan map case. For any discerning RT rider looking for quality and functionality, it's a slam dunk for the Touratech. This expandable tank bag is made in Germany by Kahedo and has an MSRP of \$386.20 plus shipping.

—Moshe Levy

Touratech, 800-491-2926, [touratech-usa.com](http://touratech-usa.com)

# ROK Straps ●●●●●

**D**ESPITE MY LARGE bungee collection, it seems I never have the size required. I'm either stretching them more than I should, or hoping loose bungees will keep things in place. Not to mention typical bungee hooks rarely fit grab rails and can damage finish. Cinch or ratcheting straps are a more adjustable solution, but without tension, riding tends to loosen them, creating a potentially dangerous situation.

It's been awhile since we reviewed ROK Straps, whose products combine the stretchiness of a bungee with the adjustability of a cinch-style strap. I tested the 42x $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch version (also available in 60x1-inch).

ROK Straps feature two distinct parts. First, there's a length of sturdy, polyester-braided webbing with a looped end for securing to the mount point, and an unlooped end that runs through a quick-release buckle, allowing the strap to be adjusted for length. Second, at the other side of the quick-release buckle, is a flat, 7-inch section of shock cord the same width of the strap, slightly thicker and also finished on the opposite end with a loop.

The looped ends make the attachment to any part of the bike easy and infinitely adjustable. Moreover, the soft webbed loops are less threatening to a bike's finish. When securing a load, simply



**Adjustable ROK Straps ensure whatever you pack is snugly secure on your bike.**

separate the strap into its two halves via the quick-release buckle, loop the strap around the attachment point of the bike and back through the webbed loop, creating a snare. Repeat the same for the other side, reconnect the two halves via the buckle, then pull the unlooped end of the webbing to tighten the strap.

The shock cord ensures ample tension to keep the strap tight.

I used two ROK Straps to secure a dry bag containing a sleeping pad and came away impressed. They kept everything secure through miles of rain and high-

way speeds. I appreciate that when repacking in a different configuration, ROK Straps adjust to fit. These eponymous, adjustable, stretch-straps are available as Pack Straps with a  $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch width, 12 to 42 inches of adjustability and 75 pounds rated capacity, or Motorcycle Straps at 1-inch wide with 18 to 60 inches of adjustability and 100 pounds capacity. ROK Straps are available in seven colors and sold in pairs: \$15 for 42x $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch (\$16 for reflective or camo) or \$24 for 60x1-inch (\$26 for reflective or camo).

—Jeremy C. Willard

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