



Winner

Silverline Hard Base Wide Mouth Tool Bag 268974



Price: £17.20

Contact: silverlinetools.com

THE Silverline is everyone's idea of a tool bag: nothing special in any one area, but a great combination of features makes it our Best Buy.

At just less than a kilo, it was light enough for its 20x30x40cm size and came with a 1.2-metre strap for easy carrying. We liked its tough construction in reinforced nylon, which gave the impression it would stand up to many years of hard work. The zipped cantilever opening revealed a spacious interior complete with eight internal pockets, and there are a further 13 dotted around the exterior.

The hard plastic base kept everything rigid and it coped with almost all our test samples. We also liked the Velcro grip, which secured a comfortable cover for its twin handles. It's impressively well made, practical and, at the price, good value for an everyday bag.



Tool bag

To keep your tools safe, pick up one of the best carriers

AE ALTHOUGH cars have become ever more reliable, it's a good idea to carry a few tools. The choice between bag and box depends on many factors, but the former is usually a bit cheaper and potentially less damaging to your car's trim.

We evaluated these bags by seeing how well they coped with a selection of kit, starting with a basic set (screwdrivers,

spanners, tyre foam, torch etc) and then a more comprehensive collection, with items like mole grips, hammer and multimeter.

We liked to see a selection of pockets (inside and out), and elasticated loops were useful for keeping heavier tools in place. A rigid, plastic base prevented sagging when fully laden and stopped any water or oil leaking. A carrying strap was a bonus.

8 products tested

Commended

Stanley 16in Rigid Multipurpose Tool Bag

Price: £28.99

Contact: halfords.com

THIS Stanley was designed for harder work with rigid sides, although this meant that it could not be folded flat when not in use. We liked the hard plastic base, which handily rose 30mm up the sides of the bag, offering more protection.

Constructed from tough, 600x600-Denier fabric, the twin-zipped top included a neat transparent pocket, ideal for maps or instructions. We thought the inside pockets were a touch shallow, but we did like the elasticated loops for securing tools. And there were four exterior pockets, including one with a Velcro flap.



Stanley 16in Open Mouth Tool Bag

Price: £16.49

Contact: halfords.com

THIS second Stanley bag was a similar design to the Silverline while offering around 20 per cent more capacity. Like the Rigid Bag (left), it had a 600-Denier construction, which would stand up to lots of hard work, and the metre-long padded shoulder strap was handy.

There were six exterior pockets, one with a Velcro flap, which is handy for smaller items or those you want to keep out of sight. Inside were one full-length pocket and three smaller ones. Between them all, they swallowed most of our test kit and, like the top two, it had a tough, plastic base.

