

# sky

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# Papa's Got a Brand-New Bag, and So Should You!



It's time to call it quits with that ragged old black bag that you don't even recognize on the luggage carousel. Time to get some style, some panache, some flair. Here's what to pack your stuff in.

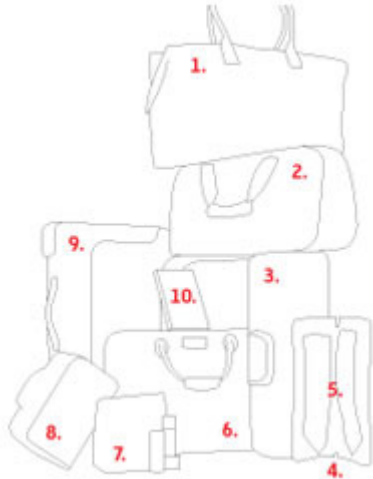
## The Goods

Do you have duct tape anywhere on your bag? Is your carry-on ripped in spots? Have the zippers stopped zipping? Does it have a strange smell—maybe cologne, or BenGay, or nail-polish remover? If any of the above applies to your luggage, *please* check out our picks.

**1. DOONEY & BOURKE** Medium Duffel in crocodile-embossed leather, \$495, in Brown T-Moro (800-347-5000 or 203-853-7515, [www.dooney.com](http://www.dooney.com))

**2. JOHNSTON & MURPHY** Leather Cabin Duffle, \$428, in rich Mahogany (800-424-2854, [www.johnstonandmurphy.com](http://www.johnstonandmurphy.com))

**3. SO RETRO** Fashionaire Collection suitcase, \$565, by Samsonite Black Label. Special edition reissue of 1960s Samsonite luggage is limited to 600 pieces worldwide. (877-354-4481, [www.flight001.com](http://www.flight001.com))



**4. KAEHLER** Leather Zip Tie Case, \$49.95, with elastic bands to hold ties in place (800-314-2247 or 847-541-3034, [www.worldtraveler.com](http://www.worldtraveler.com))

**5. FAÇONNABLE** Silk jacquard ties, \$89.50 each, in green and burnt orange (212-319-0111, [www.faconnable.com](http://www.faconnable.com))

**6. KATE SPADE** De Gaulle Triangular Duffel, \$425, in bright green patent leather with navy trim (866-999-5283, [www.katespade.com](http://www.katespade.com))

**7. ESPA** Traveler products: Hydrating Cleansing Milk, \$20.50; Floral Spafresh, \$20.50; 24 Hour Eye Complex, \$36.50; 24 Hour Moisturizing Complex, \$26.50. All are under 3 ounces and come with a plastic ziplock bag. (877-377-2872, [www.espaonline.com](http://www.espaonline.com))

**8. MOROCCAN-INSPIRED** Jenny Train Case, \$78, by Stephanie Johnson. It straps in product and features a separate clear pouch with detachable mirror. Part of the Marrakesh collection, with olive green print against ocean blue, trimmed in olive faux lizard. (888-637-2668, [www.stephaniejohnson.com](http://www.stephaniejohnson.com))

**9. VICTORINOX** Swiss Army Mobilizer NXT 4.0 Sentinel East-West Garment Bag, \$499.99, in red (800-442-2706, [www.swissarmy.com](http://www.swissarmy.com))

## Got Gadget?



**10. PLAYAWAY** Digital audio books, \$24.99 and up, by Findaway World, include earbuds and AAA battery (877-893-0808 or 440-893-0808, [www.playawaydigital.com](http://www.playawaydigital.com)). Whether you have techies or Luddites on your Christmas list, these nifty palm-sized gadgets could make great stocking stuffers. Weighing in at a feather-light 2 ounces, the audiobooks require only plugging in the earbuds—no outdated cassettes, awkward CDs or lengthy Internet downloads. The player is the audiobook—imagine that! Titles range from classics and history to business and bestsellers. (Shown: **The Innocent Man**, by John Grisham, Random House Audio, \$44.99.)

—Waynette Goodson

## Back, Back, Back It Up

Sure, the roller bag is the greatest invention for the traveler since the airplane, but you can't roll it out of the car trunk or into the overhead bin. Dr. Sean McCance, co-director of Orthopaedic Spine Surgery at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York, has treated too many luggage-related lower-back injuries, from simple lumbar strains all the way to herniated discs. But any back can hurt from luggage badly handled, so heed his advice:

**FOR THE LONG HAUL** "I always tell patients to pack two or three bags instead of one large bag," says McCance. "Avoid the big awkward ones you sometimes see, where they have their whole house in one bag."

**HANDLE WITH CARE** "Lift with the knees, Hercules. Bend from the knees, keep the back straight and do the lifting with your legs. People injure themselves when they're leaning forward to lift a heavy object."

**UPSY-DAISY** "Choose your target space in the over-head bin, or you might get stuck in an awkward posture. A lot of injuries happen from lifting and twisting. Take a step back so the overhead is in front of you. Then lift the bag to the seat in front of you, with back straight. Put both hands on the bag and lift it straight up."

**OOPSY-DAISY** "If you get a lumbar strain—a pulled muscle in the lower back—use ice packs and dose up on Motrin or Advil. A bad strain might need resting in a comfy bed for 24 hours." But better just to pack light.

—Sophia Dembling

Photos by David Hamsley; Styling by Laurie Brookins