FOCUS ON PHOTOGRAPHY

Photo benefits are in the bag



When your camera equipment consists only of a camera and a couple of rolls of film, carrying them around

presents no problem. But as soon as you begin to acquire extra lenses, a flash unit, fil-ters and other accessories, a good camera bag becomes a necessi-

ty. A camera bag not only gives you ade-quate protection for all your photo equipment, but it makes it easy to locate a particular item in a hurry.

locate a particular item in a hurry.

Camera bags come in two types; soft bags and rigid cases. Soft bags are by far the most popular. They're more portable and therefore easier to move around and travel with. Rigid cases are more often used by the professional photographer who works mostly out of a studio.

The range and quality of camera bags on the market is immense. Here

bags on the market is immense. Here are some tips on what to look for.

To start with, keep in mind the wise saying, "You get what you pay for." So don't waste your time looking for a cheap bag. After all, you've probably invested wisely in a good camera system, so why house it in a flimsy bag?

Look for something with quality. Check out the material. It should be a durable only weak with good stitch.

durable nylon weave with good stitching. It should be fairly weatherproof

and have adequate protection on the bottom. A rigid bottom protects your equipment if you should put your bag

equipment if you should put your bag down sharply on a hard surface. All sides along the top should be padded and the strap also padded for comfort while carrying your bag. Many bags today have adjustable partitions on the inside that attach by means of Velero. This means you can compartmentalize each piece of equip-ment to assure a tight and secure fit. You can "personalize" your camera bag You can "personalize" your camera bag for you and your gear.

Don't buy a camera bag that will just exactly house your existing equipment. Plan for the future. Buy one that's a little larger to allow for that extra lens or second camera body you've been think-

ing about obtaining.
If you're a backpacker, check out some of the new bags that easily convert into a backpack. For comfort on a

long hike, it's the only way to go.

One further hint: Always carry your camera bag with you when traveling by air. Never include it with your check-

through luggage.
So take your camera equipment and bag it! — in a good camera bag that will serve you well.

Monte Nagler is a fine art photogra-pher based in Farmington Hills. You can leave him a message by dialing (313) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone, (313) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone, then his mailbox number, 1873. His fax number is (810) 644-1314.



Arch of triumph: Getting to Utah's Delicate Arch is a strenuous two-mile hike. But Monte Nagler's backpack camera bag helped make the hike easier and enjoyable.



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