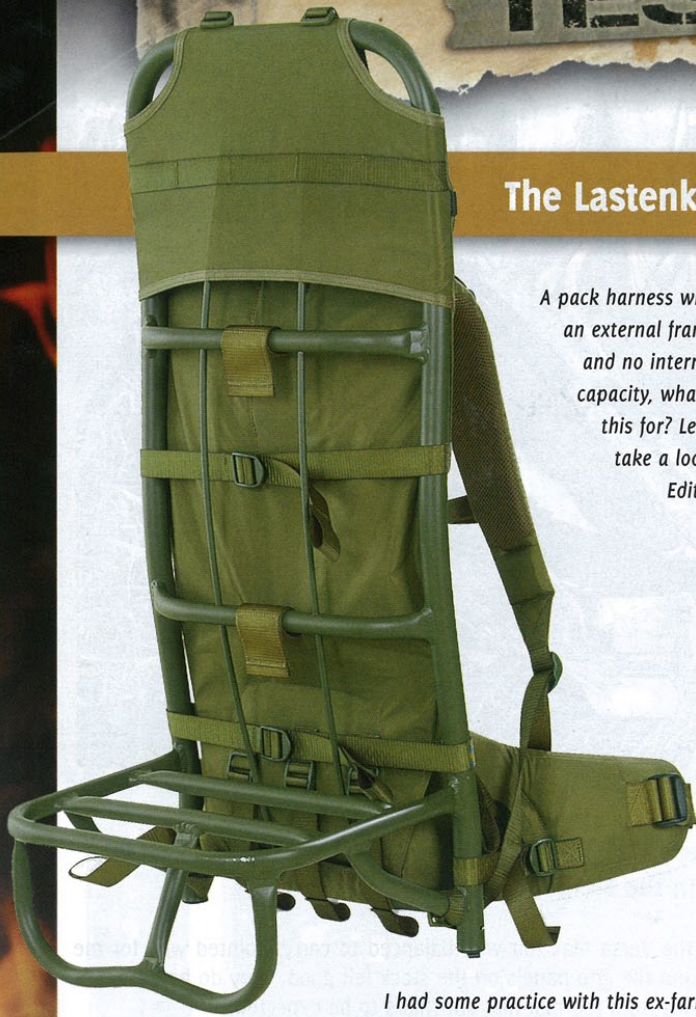


The Lastenkraxe is a specialised carrier device for heavy loads.

TEST FIRE

The Lastenkraxe Carry System by Tatonka



A pack harness with an external frame and no internal capacity, what's this for? Let's take a look.
Editor

I had some practice with this ex-farmed black Fallow spiker, courtesy of Kaimai Range Venison. There are many ways to tie your deer on.



Introduction

I have been using Tatonka packs for many years now and have really come to know and respect this German brand. They tend to make packs that appear simple, yet are cleverly designed without too many bells-and-whistles. At first glance you may think the Lastenkraxe is a strange looking pack, but once you try it...

The Idea

This new design is an interesting concept in load carrying. Actually, I have seen it before, from memory a similar product won a design award in New Zealand a few years back. It was made for carrying pigs.

This is a pack harness support, complete with padded shoulder straps and hip belt, that's easy and quick to adjust with a solid external frame attached. The V2 harness is a full pack harness with its own internal aluminium supporting rods. It's modified to have the external frame attached buckled on instead of an open-

topped pack. It's so versatile; you could load just about anything you would carry on your back onto the frame.

Meat hunting

This is a brilliant piece of equipment for hunters, particularly meat hunters. Why? Because you can tie on a load, any load, and carry it in relative comfort, it's that simple.

You can tie on a whole deer or pig and not have its legs cut into your arms, plus the waist belt takes much of the weight (like a back-pack should) so it's not all on your shoulders. Believe me; you can carry a heck of a lot more weight if it's comfortable on your shoulders.

You have the choice of tying the animal vertically, if the bush is thick, or horizontally if you want the weight and centre of gravity lower for more stability. Actually, you could put two deer on if you were a really tough bloke!

One negative is that the two back straps are too short to be used to wrap around a whole animal, so you'll need to



The strong and well padded harness is made by Tatonka, a specialist pack making company.

carry some cord for the task. Of course, you could load the Lastenkraxe with a bag of gear for extender trips. A large 'dry-bag' is probably ideal.

I expect that the frame base may knock on the bush when stalking until you were used to it.

Adjustment for body size is simple and quick. This is a well thought out system.



The carry frame can easily be removed.



Untying a nice summer fallow deer from the Te Puke hills.



Padding is excellent all round, covered in breathable mesh polyester. All webbing is nylon so it slides easily through its matching olive green buckles. Total weight is 2.7kg which is pretty good.

In the field

Local venison processor, Gary Krom at Kaimai Range Venison, had a venison home-kill to do so it was a good opportunity to try strapping a deer to the frame. It wasn't a big deer (a Fallow spiker) but it did give me a chance to try the Lastenkraxe loaded with an animal.

The frame made it easy to load the deer onto but we did need extra cord as I expected. There are plenty of places to tie it and it only took a couple of minutes to attach. Carrying the load was super comfortable; no different from your usual pack. It's also great if you want to stop for a rest, especially on a slight rise, as you can sit and then stand with ease.

Conclusion

This is a super design for carrying whole animals or other loads. You don't get your back covered in blood and your shoulders do not get bruised from bony animal legs. You can easily strap on your daypack if you wanted to or pretty much anything else you liked.

You can remove the frame and carry just the V2 harness, with a bit of modification, but it's really designed to be worn with the aluminium external frame attached. A brilliant product!

Two year warranty

RRP\$299

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The construction

The solid frame is powder-coated aluminium in dark olive green and set up in a raised "L" or chair shape. This means it will stand alone, even when loaded up. The harness is the Tatonka's V2 carrying system that they recommend for medium to heavy loads up to 50kg. Looking at how well this is made I would be confident loading a big boar onto it, provided you can carry it of course.

It has all the tie-down and pull-straps of a good harness, plus the waist belt uses the simple leverage of sliding side-buckles so you can really load up the weight on your waist.

LIKED

- Great support to carry a whole animal.
- Simple design, light weight.
- Easy to adjust harness for fit.
- High design will take animal vertically.

DISLIKED

- No internal storage.
- Straps a bit short to use to secure a deer.
- High design tricky to get under logs.