



Giant Loop Kiger tank bag

By Wes Fleming #87301

I HAD SUCH A BAD EXPERIENCE with my last tank bag that it's been 15 years since I've used one. That bag was bulky, heavy, used a cumbersome magnetic base that seemed to consistently scratch my fuel tank and was too tempting (and easy) to overstuff with a tremendous amount of... well, junk.

When it came time to prepare for my journey to the National in Salt Lake City—which, incidentally, happened on an airplane instead of a motorcycle because my clutch decided to stop working—I wanted to try a tank bag again to see if I still hate them.

Spoiler alert: I'm in love with tank bags again, thanks to Giant Loop.

My requirements were few, but important. First, it had to be small, but not so small that all it could hold would be a wallet and one bottle of water. Second, it had to be waterproof. Third, it had to be easy to remove or at least provide easy access to the fuel filler cap.

I knew I couldn't get another magnetic bag, since the fuel tank on my GS is plastic, so I started looking at bags that mounted with three straps, one around the steering head and two down to the frame. I considered several bags, sending emails to each vendor with questions, before settling on

Giant Loop's Kiger.

The Kiger is GL's biggest tank bag, boasting a capacity of nine liters with a slight adjustment of the lid adding a tiny bit more storage. At first I was wary of its zipperless design, but in operation, the clamshell lid is



secure and far less fiddly than having to run a zipper all the way around the circumference of a bag. Unclip two straps and bingo, you're in the bag. Many times when I'm trying to get at something I've recently tossed in there, I can get to it with just one strap unfastened.

Giant Loop makes no claim that the Kiger itself is waterproof, so they include a

little zipper bag with the purchase, and that inner (removable) bag is waterproof. In my experience, including two driving rainstorms and one outright thunderstorm, no water made it through the exterior of the Kiger, though a cold storm did create a little condensation inside the bag. The inner bag is absolutely waterproof.

The Kiger sits atop Giant Loop's standard tank bag harness, which is common across all their tank bags. The harness is what attaches to the motorcycle, and the tank bag attaches to the harness with two heavy-duty zippers. To refuel, unzip one side and flip the tank bag up. This is my one criticism of the tank bag: the harness has a U-shaped opening for the fuel filler cap, but it's narrower than the cap on my R 1200 GS. To get the cap past the harness, I have to fiddle the harness side to side a bit. It's a minor inconvenience to be sure, but I feel that a slightly wider opening in the harness would accommodate more fuel filler caps without compromising the integrity of the mount on the motorcycle.

For increased visibility, I got my Kiger in "KTM orange" (my name, not GL's), but they're also available in an attractive gray color. The vinyl-coated polyester Giant Loop uses to make these tank bags is thick and sturdy; it feels substantial, but not heavy.

Installation was easy and only required



removing the seat and the two pop-off side panels on my GS. You can see a video of the install of the Kiger by going to this link: goo.gl/EEBZGo.

The typical stuff I put in the tank bag includes gloves, water (bottled, though a small bladder would fit), wallet, keys, cell phone, maps, and a point-and-shoot camera. I'm trying not to cram it clear full to keep my second tank bag experience a positive one. So far so good!

Giant Loop's Kiger tank bag is the right size for my use, it installed easily and it looks great. It functions exactly as advertised, which isn't a surprise, coming from GL. It's not everything for all riders, but it's not pretending to be, either.

The Kiger Tank Bag retails for \$290, with a shoulder strap available for \$25. Both are available from giantloop.com.

PROS: easy to install, virtually waterproof even without the definitely waterproof insert, lightweight

CONS: items in the external mesh pocket not secure at high speeds, cutout for gas filler cap could stand to be a little wider. ☹

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