

What's In My Backpack?

A Holiday Guide to On-the-Go Tech

By Trey Peacock, Winning Cases Based On Science & Data For Over 25 Years

The end of the year is fast approaching, and with it the obligatory frenzy of consumerism that we call the holiday season. In the spirit of gift-giving and gift-getting, I wanted to use this article to give you all a peek into what objects I carry with me on a daily (and nightly) basis when I'm working or traveling.

These are my absolute must-haves no matter the task or destination. In many instances, I have researched and tested a lot of products to come up with those that do the job needed with the least amount of bulk and weight and for the best price.

It's my hope that this list can help patch some gaps in your everyday carry setup or help jumpstart a gift idea for a gear-head loved one or tech-obsessed friend. If you don't have one of those yet, get cracking because this whole internet thing isn't going away and someone in your life will need to reboot a router eventually.

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In My Backpack

[The Backpack \(\\$68.00\)](#)



This is what holds it all together. My career, my sanity, and more.

This backpack has cushioned internal storage space for my 14-inch Macbook Pro, a separate zippered front compartment for my 11-inch iPad Pro, internal pockets to hold the items described below, a cup holder on the side, and a hidden strap on the back to slot over the handle on my rolling suitcase when I travel.

Even packed to the brim, it remains compact, sleek, and lightweight and also comfortable enough to travel and commute with daily (and it slides very easily under the airplane seat in front of me).

At a low price point, this is a fantastic choice for anyone who wants to graduate from a ratty Jansport but isn't quite ready for the gravity and weight of a fancy leather briefcase.

[Anker 65W Wall Charger \(\\$59.99\)](#)

Of all the charging bricks I've used, from the name brand Apple ones to the knockoffs, this Anker 65W charger is by far the best. Small enough to tuck into a side pocket but powerful enough to charge three devices in a flash, this is a huge upgrade over whatever collection of legacy laptop, tablet, and phone chargers are rattling around your briefcase.

It's got 2 USB-C slots plus a USB-A outlet, so it should have you covered no matter what generation your tech is. I use it to charge my laptop when working in another firm's office and I can plug my MacBook, iPad, and iPhone into this one charger in the evening and fully recharge all my devices overnight. It's now the one charger I carry wherever I go.



[Adaptable Charging Cord \(2x\) \(\\$13.49\)](#)



This cord has attachments for USB-C, Lightning, and USB-A cables so all of your devices can use the same cord. Simple, and it keeps weight down. These come in 4ft and 6ft lengths, and I carry one of each for flexibility.

[Anker MagSafe Power Bank \(\\$44.99\)](#)

If there's one thing I hate, it's getting stuck with a dead phone and no backup. This battery pack is slim and small, but with a 5,000mAh capacity, it's got enough juice to charge your phone fully.

The best part is, you don't even need a cord. With any MagSafe enabled iPhone, just click the bank into place on the back of your phone, and voila. Your phone is immortal.



[USB-A to USB-C Converter \(2x\) \(\\$9.99\)](#)



If you're like me, you've long since upgraded to devices that come with USB-C ports standard. But, unfortunately, not all of my cables have caught up. Sometimes I only have an old one laying around, or someone I am traveling with only has older cables.

In any case, it's good to have one or two of these little converters handy in case you have to bridge some technological gaps on the go.

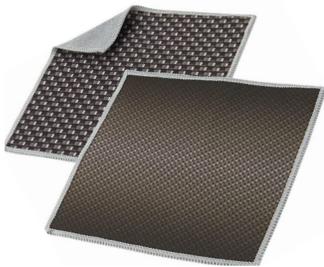
[SanDisk Flash Drive \(\\$25.41\)](#)

Just like a good lawyer, portable data storage is one of those things that's far better to have and not need than need and not have, whether for a critical contract or the odd image to print.

This drive in particular has both USB-C and USB-A male ends, enabling you to connect to virtually any device with ease, plus it boasts a plentiful 256GB capacity.



[Microfiber Cleaning Cloth \(2x\) \(\\$7.99\)](#)



It's always important to keep your devices clean, smudge and dust-free to ensure the best user experience and clean screens for easy reading. Plus, cutting down on unnecessary dirt and grime extends the lifespan of your devices and saves you money.

Luckily, these cloths are cheap, reusable, and durable. Soft on your screens, hard on gunk. They also come in a fun variety of colors, so take your pick!

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The above items stay in my backpack each and every day, whether I'm going to and from the office, on the road, or even on vacation. Below I offer some suggestions for items that have a permanent spot in my suitcase whenever I travel overnight somewhere.

In My Suitcase

[Anker 3-in-1 Charging Cube \(\\$149.95\)](#)



I. Love. The Cube. No other item on this list scratches my tech nerd itch like this one. This humble grey box — with a few clicks and clacks — expands to reveal MagSafe charging pads for an iPhone, an Apple Watch, and a pair of AirPods, all contained in a 2x2 cube. Works just as incredibly on a hotel nightstand as it does on your bedside table at home. Buy this. Immediately.

[Anker Wall Plug \(\\$18.39\)](#)

I use this tiny 30W charger (with a foldable plug) to power The Cube. With this charger and a high quality USB C cable (like the one below), your phone, watch, and AirPods will all be at full power overnight.



[6ft USB-C Charging Cord \(2x\) \(\\$19.79\)](#)



A straight up USB-C charging cable for all the devices that take it, which should be more than most as we evolve in the next few years towards a universal charger and cable standard.

I use this for my Anker cube, but it's long enough and fast enough that it should be up for any job, whether you want to lounge on your tablet in bed or plug your laptop in from the end of the conference room.

[Sonos Roam Bluetooth Speaker \(\\$199.99\)](#)

I love music. You love music. The residents of the adjoining hotel room definitely love music. That's why I recommend the Sonos Roam. It's a perfect travel speaker; rugged, compact, waterproof, and powerful enough for everything from shower karaoke to an impromptu party. It packs a punch when you're on the go, and can even pair up with other Sonos devices to boost your playback.



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And that's it! I hope you enjoyed and maybe even picked up a new toy. If you disagree with one of my choices here, let me know in the comments or send me an email and we can hash it out. But I suspect you may lose the argument. Because this stuff is the best.

Happy Holidays to all.

About the Author

Trey Peacock, a partner at [Susman Godfrey](#), has been winning cases based on science and data for over 25 years. He has also chaired the firm's IT committee for over two decades. [Learn more about Trey here.](#)