

New Bags for the New Year

BY HEATHER KELLY

Black nylon backpacks are so 2010. Start 2011 fresh with a laptop bag that fits your New Year's resolutions.

Start Recycling

Sleeve maker Blythe King fashions her unique MacBook, iPhone, and iPad protectors from vintage fabrics, patches, and buttons. The 13-inch iSocket MacBook Pro 13 (\$85 to \$125; www.blytheking.com) comes in various patterns (the Waterman pattern is pictured). The top flap that keeps your Mac snug in the sleeve is held shut with a used leather button. On the front of each iSocket sleeve is a single giant pocket, perfect for stowing a power cord. Available iSocket patterns and designs vary. Current choices range from old marching band and military uniforms to dapper hounds-tooth and old Kimono fabrics.

Move up the Corporate Ladder

Getting ahead requires looking crisp and professional, but still standing out. If you need an office-ready case for your 13- or 15-inch laptop but are wary of boring black bags, check out Hlaska's Caliper briefcase (\$250; macworld.com/6683). Available in green, brown, or black, this smartly structured bag combines high-end nylon and soft Italian leather for a new take on the classic briefcase shape.

Be More Outdoorsy

Part rugged carry-all, part supersecure laptop case, the colorful Embarrassment line of messenger bags from Crumpler (\$95 to \$105; www.crumpler.com) is the perfect fit for an active lifestyle. To protect



Roll Call Get a great bag for your laptop; clockwise from the top we have the Hlaska Caliper briefcase in green, the Dayton EW Messenger in cognac, the Crumpler Moderate Embarrassment, and the iSocket MacBook Pro sleeve.

your cargo from the elements, the outside of the bag is a durable waterproof nylon and the top flap is secured shut with two Velcro strips and two compression clips. Choose from four color combinations and three sizes. The Moderate Embarrassment (pictured) fits a 13-inch laptop.

Reclaim Classic Style

Adding a bit of flair to your wardrobe doesn't need to be a hassle—start with

something foolproof, like the spacious Dayton EW Messenger from Fossil (\$188; www.fossil.com). This leather satchel comes in cognac (pictured) and black. There's a large pocket on the front of the bag, and two brass buckles that are just for show—hidden snaps do the work. Inside you'll find a cushioned side compartment for holding a 13-inch laptop, a side pocket for smaller bits, and a large space for your other fashionable accessories.

PRODUCT WATCH

HARDWARE

FHX2402L, from Gateway (www.gateway.com): Superslim 16.9 LED monitor with all-digital HDMI interface, and VGA and DVI ports (\$250).

SOFTWARE

LogMeIn Central, from LogMeIn (secure.logmein.com): Web-based management console helps IT professionals automate administrative tasks (\$299 per year).

RAIDBank5, from MicroNet (www.micronet.com): Fast, low-hassle RAID solution offers the reliability of RAID 5 (2.5TB, \$799; 5TB, \$999; 10TB, \$1799).

Travelstar 5K750, from Hitachi Global Storage Technologies (www.hitachigst.com): 5400-rpm 2.5-inch hard drive comes in capacities up to 750GB (prices start at \$130).