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newsmaker



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BACKPACKER

THE OUTDOORS AT YOUR DOORSTEP

Gear Review: Salon Grafix Invisible Dry Shampoo

Go from trail to tapas with this magic, dry shampoo.

By Ben Fullerton

July 2, 2010

Here's the scenario: You get back to the trailhead and find a text message that's all about drinks and appetizers with that person you've been after. You're all sweaty and gross, but you'll have to go straight there if you want to make it. What do you do? Well the rest of your body is going to have to wing it, but thanks to your Salon Grafix Invisible Dry Shampoo, you know your hair won't be the reason they don't call you back. If you're lucky enough to live in a chic outdoor town like Boulder, transitioning from hiker to happy hour hero just means taking off your pack. It's totally legit to show up in your trail runners, Schoeller pants, and merino shirt, but if your dome looks like the underside of a llama's neck, it's not going to be a good night... for anyone.

When I first tried this stuff, it was right after a short power hike/trail run at the Fischer Towers on the way out of Moab. My friend and I had just finished the hike and it was time to jump in the Jeep and drive straight back to Boulder in time for the usual Friday night shenanigans. The press release said 'Just spray in and brush out!' so I went for it. (You also have to let it dry for a minute, but that doesn't fit into the slogan very well.)

I didn't have a brush (what self-respecting climber dude carries a brush?), so I used my fingers. By the time I finger-fluffed the product out, my hair was dry and devoid of sweat. Unfortunately, it was dumping snow on Vail Pass, and we didn't get home until after midnight. But despite both of us being in a car for 11 hours, it didn't smell like a locker room, so it held up its claim on neutralizing odors. And that was dealing with post-hike sweaty hair, on the back end of 5 days of hiking, camping and not showering in the Utah desert. So that's pretty much worst case scenario.

It works even better when only up against the usual skipped-a-shower messy mop, where it not only handles the greasiness and odor, but also restores a healthy shine and makes your hair actually look clean; which is quite a few steps above simply looking 'not dirty'. It's obviously not as good as, you know, taking a shower. But if your usual trailhead-to-town protocol involves doing nothing, then it's a big step in the right direction. A canister of Invisible Dry Shampoo and a pack of Mentos might not take you from zero to hero, but it'll at least get you into happy hour. The rest is up to you!

Austin American-Statesman

Trippy gifts for the traveler

By Helen Anders

November 27, 2010

I envy Santa that sleigh. No bag fees, no carry-on limits . . . and I'm guessing he doesn't have to go through security or customs. The rest of us aren't so lucky, so in this year's gift guide for travelers, you'll see a number of items that speak to smart packing. Take a look, and may 2011 be a year of meaningful meanderings.

The gift of travel

What could possibly be a better gift than a trip - maybe to Quebec's Winter Carnival Jan. 28-Feb. 13 - with someone you love? This gift has the advantage of also being a gift to yourself. Choose a trip that fits your budget and your giftee's personality. Write a sweet note and wrap it up in a box with a photo of your destination. You'll be hugged.

Light luggage

You want to lug as little as possible, especially in these days of high bag fees. The newest Delsey line, Helium Super Lite, is durable as well as very light, and there's an overweight indicator that turns red if your bag is more than 50 pounds (which would mean you'd pay more to check it.) It's available at Sam Moon, Dillard's or Macy's starting at \$69.99.

Convenient corkage

For your favorite oenophile, the Twistick is a little corkscrew that fits on a key ring and is seriously tiny. (Yes, you can take a corkscrew in your carry-on luggage, as long as it doesn't include a knife.) It's \$9.99 at stuffjunction.com. Consider adding collapsible wine glasses (\$8.95 each at letravelstore.com) Made of Lexan Resin, they're virtually indestructible.

Carry-on Coat

OK, this one's over-the-top, but I must admit the airlines asked for it when they started charging us for checked luggage. [Scottevest.com](http://scottevest.com) just came up with the Carry-on Coat, a trench coat that has 33 pockets, most of them inside the coat. That's right, 33 pockets - some big enough to house a pair of pants. It's \$225 on scottevest.com.

Tiny diapers

Here's one for parents: A Diaper Bud is a regular diaper compressed into a wad a tad bigger than a golf ball. Each is vacuum-sealed in plastic for the parent on the go. I had my daughter try these out on her baby. She says it's a quality diaper and easy to use. Best benefit: A dad can put one in his pocket. Get a large pack for \$17.99 (number depends on size) at diaperbuds.com.

Musical language lessons

SubLingual's "Learn French through Music" (and it's available in other languages) includes a CD of music and a book with the songs' English lyrics. There's also a grammar section and glossary. I wish it had a pronunciation guide. But the music's good (Carla Bruni, Pink Martini etc.), and it's fun to learn, by repetition, lines like "It seems happiness is just an arm's reach away" and "You don't know how much you annoy me." Beats the ones I already knew: "Are you sleeping, brother John?" and "Alouette, I am going to pull out all your feathers." It's \$19.95 on amazon.com.

Doggie hydration

For your friend with a pet: "Paws for Water" is a 24-ounce stainless steel doggie water bottle. Much neater in a car than a dish. It's available in various colors for \$15 from Pflugerville-based formsadvantage.com.

Handy toiletry kit

Don't tell my husband, but he's getting one of these. This toiletry kit from Briggs & Riley has pockets for both wet and dry things, so as to keep the shampoo out of the dental floss. There's a strap for hanging it from a tree, and it's shaped to double as a neck roll. It's \$40 at briggs-riley.com.

Honky tonk guide

Here's the perfect stocking stuffer for that friend who always wants to check out the bars in whatever town you're visiting. Shirley Y. Jenkins' "Texas Landmark Saloons, Honky Tonks and Dance Halls" (Texas Pocket Guides) is your guide to the places where you can knock one back and scoot a boot. It's \$5.99 at amazon.com.

Little toiletries

Travelers need to pack tight and adhere to security rules, so loading up a stocking with liquids and gels of less than 3.4 ounces is always a super idea. In addition to favorite shampoos and conditioners in tiny sizes, consider the newly available 1-ounce Salon Grafix Invisible Dry Shampoo (\$2.99 at Ulta) and a terrific five-piece EcoTools brush set with short handles to take up less room. They're in a zip case for \$9.99 at Target. Put all your finds together in a clear, zippered Jon Hart Airport Chico (much cooler than a grocery store plastic bags) for \$22 at Silver Papery, 3300 Bee Cave Road (silverpapery.com).

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