



Upstrap Camera Strap

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If you're looking for a new camera strap, you might take a look at one called the Upstrap. I'm not a fan of spending money on things like this but the Upstrap seems to solve several problems. Here's an armchair review based on about a month of use:

The Upstrap non-slip strap is designed to keep your camera snugly on your shoulder and it works really well without shouting "photographer" with a Nikon or Canon advertisement. I've always used the factory straps and carried cameras with a "wrist wrap" method that a pro photographer suggested many years ago. With my last outfit, though, I ended up with a heavier camera and lens so carrying it with a hand-strap for a half day of shooting was not quite as convenient. To make matters worse, when placed over my shoulder it constantly slipped without warning.

Not long ago, I read an article about this strap by Ken Rockwell. A quick Google search confirmed that, yes; the Upstrap seems to be wildly popular. I placed my order with this company that I never heard of and hoped for the best. The delivery time was even better than Amazon, which is what I consider to be the gold standard since we have a Kentucky warehouse just 100 miles away. The straps come in several different versions and I ordered the SLR-Classic which retails for \$34 plus \$5 for shipping or \$7 for Priority Mail.

The strap is simply made, being just a long piece of web that runs through a rectangle shoulder pad. When taking the strap out of the shipping envelope, it's a bit disappointing. The shoulder pad is a black spongy rubber or neoprene-like material that has little to no shine to it and the strap webbing is rather thin. The pad has small grippy dimples on both sides. Laying it beside the Nikon-brand strap, it looks rather anemic at first mainly because of the thin web. When you get down to examining the details, though, this strap has a simple but great design to it. The 3/8 inch wide web has a breaking point rated at 1250 lbs! It's a seamless web with no swivels or stitching to fail or fall apart. The shoulder pad is identical on both sides so you don't have to constantly flip it over to keep it stuck on the shoulder. Either side will work just as well. The strap is plenty long enough so that you can make it fit your particular torso length or carrying style. I'm well over 6 feet and I have it adjusted so that the camera is readily at hand when slung over the shoulder, falling near the pocket area of my jeans.

The first thing that I did was to try out my traditional hand-wrap holding style. It was a no-go as the shoulder pad section doesn't fold up like a cloth strap. Next, I tried carrying it on the shoulder (as it was designed) and I was amazed at how the strap made the

camera very convenient with the feel of nearly disappearing at my hip. Being long enough, I could quickly raise the camera to my eye and snap a photograph and then lower the camera without the strap falling over my shoulder. The shoulder strap grips like a tacky strip to my shoulder and I haven't found much difference at all when I change clothing types. It works on a cotton sweatshirt as well as my lightweight nylon-shell coat.

Even though the shoulder pad section doesn't fold up like cloth, overall the strap meets my criteria of fitting with the D300 and small flash into my generic fanny pack (a pretty good theft deterrent item, in my opinion). I can't imagine that many photographers would use anything smaller than this dinky bag for their equipment so the strap should fit very well in the bag of your choice, maybe taking up less space overall than the factory one. My other bag is a small Tamrac wedge case and the strap hangs free out of the top, not being much of an issue.

Pros: Sticks to the shoulder really well, eliminates the need to put a strap around your neck to keep it secure. No advertisement thus allowing you to disappear in a crowd better. The thin strap is comfortable and blends well with clothing and deterring theft.. Strap is sturdy with no swivels or stitching and breaking point is 1250 lbs. Shipping was exceptionally quick. Instruction sheet was simple but easy to understand..

Cons: None so far, but here are my thoughts: the lack of swivels makes it more secure but time will tell if this becomes an aggravating issue for usability. This strap encourages shoulder carrying and may not be for you if you want to use the wrist-wrap or across the chest style of carrying your camera. I'm hoping that the shoulder pad material will last a long while, but I'm going to assume that it will wear out in a few years. As far as damaging clothes, I haven't noticed a problem because I don't wear fine clothing but the shoulder pad grips so well that you should give that some attention if wearing fine fabrics. This may, though, not be an issue at all. When ordering the strap, the website asked how you found out about the strap and promised a gift of a flash diffuser for the answer. I thought it had been left out until I read a note that said the diffuser was the plastic bag that the strap was sent in. That struck me as not being businesslike; being much like a practical joke, but maybe nobody else would think much of it.

Neutral: Cost of the product. I've never worn out a strap, so a price of less than \$40 with shipping seems pretty reasonable as long as the shoulder pad lasts several years. One issue not entirely related to the strap is that many (if not most) Canon cameras use a slot method of attaching straps instead of a ring and you may want to order the Kevlar version that protects against the strap being cut through at this point. Our Nikon D40 and a Pentax istD body also uses this slot method of attachment, so I don't think this is brand specific. The Kevlar version is only about \$8 more and is recommended for these cameras even though I can't see how this could be an issue with the Upstrap if it is not an issue with the original strap. The extra money might be good insurance though.

Upstrap also sells a wider strap that is designed for laptop or camera bags. This strap has a 2500 lb test web and the same style non-slip shoulder strap. It retails for \$34.

Hope this helps. [Here's the website.](#)