

October 2008 | Volume 17 | Number 9

# Men's Journal

## THE SPORTS ISSUE

Inside the  
Quarterback  
Factory

The Smartest  
Guy in the  
NBA

NASCAR  
Bad Boy  
Tony Stewart

**PLUS:** Death to  
Sportswriters!

BEST  
BEERS  
2008  
American  
Brewmasters  
Take Over

WE PICK THE BEST  
RUNNING SHOES  
FLATSCREEN TVS  
& HOME AUDIO  
EQUIPMENT

GREAT FALL  
ADVENTURES  
(on any budget)

# LANCE

The Relentless  
Drive of  
America's  
Alpha Bachelor

# MAKING THE CASE

IT SHOULD BE EASY, BUT FINDING THE RIGHT ATTACHE can take years of trial and error. To help speed you along we tested numerous briefcases against a variety of criteria — looks, size, organizational agility, ruggedness, ease of access, and

comfort — and emerged with our favorites. These don't come cheap, but if you consider the replacement cost of a crushed laptop, or the hard-to-quantify first impression on a client, they're worth it. —MIKE TENNEY

## BEST FOR:

*Leaving nothing behind*



## ◀ FILSON PADDED LAPTOP BRIEFCASE

If your office attire tends toward khakis and Blundstones, there's no better stylistic complement than this water-repellent twill and bridle-leather brief. The main compartment is big enough to qualify the bag as an overnighter, swallowing a Sunday paper, a 15-inch laptop, and gym clothes, including shoes. Exterior storage is just as substantial: two side pockets, a back sleeve, and a zippered pouch up front with six small pockets that have slots for pens, an iPod, and a cell phone. If you're willing to trade slimness for versatility, look no further. [\$285; [filson.com](http://filson.com)]

## BEST FOR:

*Looking good in bad weather*



## ▲ JACK SPADE MACKINTOSH SLIM TURNPIKE BRIEF

It has the relaxed look of a summer sport coat, but it is sturdy and, thanks to a waterproof Mackintosh lining, shrugs off a downpour. The zipper lets you get in easily with one hand, and a 15-inch laptop fits in the snap-shut interior sleeve. Plus, its canvas and leather shoulder strap is the most comfortable of the bags that include one. [\$465; [jackspade.com](http://jackspade.com)]

## BEST FOR:

*Keeping a laptop safe*



## ▲ SAMSONITE BLACK LABEL SIGNAT ATTACHE CASE

The reissued '60s-era Signat hard case is *Mad Men* cool. A bottom-hinged opening means you can't get inside on the run, but the interior has welcome structure; a built-in accordion file keeps papers in check, and the removable laptop case provides a safe home for a notebook, so long as it's 13 inches wide or less. [\$399; [samsoniteblacklabel.com](http://samsoniteblacklabel.com)]

## ► ZERO HALLIBURTON P4-STEALTH

Zero Halliburton's first carbon-fiber attaché, at 6.25 pounds, is more than a pound lighter than its similarly styled aluminum cases. Still, it's the heaviest brief here, and the cheap-feeling plastic handle is the least comfortable to carry. An adjustable seven-pocket file folder in the leather-lined interior provides just enough structure without being excessive, but there's nowhere to stow a laptop properly. A three-digit lock, hidden beneath a plate, adds the only measure of security on any of the attachés we tested. Our inner accountant wants to say the carbon fiber isn't worth the price, but our inner secret agent has him in a choke hold. [\$2,250; [zerohalliburton.com](http://zerohalliburton.com)]



## BEST FOR:

*Protecting trade secrets*

