



### KENSINGTON CONTOUR ACTIVE (15IN)

PRICE \$79.95

The Contour Active has a straight-laced look on the outside. There are two side pockets that are held closed when not in use by magnets hidden inside the fabric. They're big enough for a bottle of water, which is probably what they're designed for. There's also a zippered pocket on the back for quick access to documents, but it's not spacious enough for much else. Once you open it up you'll find a modern design, with blue suede-lined pockets for your notebook and gadgets. There's also plenty of room in here — a few books or a jumper would fit without issue. The notebook sleeve is nicely padded. It's also comfortable to carry, thanks to the thick adjustable shoulder strap.

**PC User says:** A functional bag for a good price.



### BOOQ MAMBA SADDLE (15IN)

PRICE \$190

It's slick and unassuming from the outside, but this high-end bag has an overwhelming abundance of pockets. There's enough variety in size and shape to accommodate just about any accessory — and they don't take up undue space. There are four outside pockets, including two zippered compartments for quick access to gadgets. The Mamba's slick fabric feels great, it's comfortable to carry and the wide base means it can stand up without falling over. We wish the back of the notebook compartment had thicker padding, and a soft shoulder pad on the strap would also have been a plus. Its most significant drawback is price, but with all its features, you're certainly getting great value for money.

**PC User says:** A pricey yet slick-looking bag with space for everything.



### TARGUS GROVE MESSENGER (15IN)

PRICE \$80

Targus's EcoSmart range of bags boast that they use no nickel or PVC and that their hard plastic components are recyclable. That said, the Messenger here is still mostly made of non-recyclable nylon, which like most plastics, takes thousands of years to biodegrade. Still, it's a step in the right direction. The bag's overall design is efficient and likable; there's a soft handle, a curved and padded shoulder strap, a well-designed front section for holding gadgets, and a thin external pocket on the back. The inside pocket is largely taken up by the well-padded notebook section. The interior isn't as big as some others here, but you'll probably still be able to slide in a pair of jeans and a T-shirt.

**PC User says:** Well-designed and potentially less damaging to the environment.



### STM SMALL CARGO (13IN)

PRICE \$140

The Cargo's trendy canvas look won't appeal to everyone's tastes, but it's very hard to fault from a functional perspective. The canvas material is PVC-backed, which gives it a tough, rigid feel. The inside is very well protected, thanks to ample padding, and the removable notebook sleeve with handles adds more shielding and acts as a useful second bag option. An open pouch on the front of the bag (hidden under the front flap) is adequate as a quickly accessible place to stash a phone and some pens. We didn't like the top handle, which is awkwardly positioned.

**PC User says:** It's pricey, but in terms of design, this one's top-notch.



### GRAVIS HOBO (13IN)

PRICE \$89.95

The Hobo is designed for 13in notebooks, but holds a 15in without complaint. From the outside it looks pretty subtle, with its black and white PVC material. The main flap is secured by two large clips and Velcro pads. Once you open it up, there's a bright red and white animal print inside, giving the bag a funky look. There's a few pockets on the inside front for cards and smaller items, and a larger open section in the middle of the bag for everything else. There's a reasonable amount of room beside the notebook sleeve for a few books, but not a whole lot more. The sleeve has enough padding to protect your notebook from accidental blows.

**PC User says:** Funky styling and reasonably good value.



### TARGUS FUSION CHARCOAL MESSENGER (15IN)

PRICE \$100

We liked the Fusion's internal notebook pouch, the back of which is thickly padded. There's not a whole lot of room for other stuff once a notebook is in place; however, you could fit a decent amount of documents. We're not entirely convinced by the carry handle — the material on it is a little abrasive — but the shoulder strap is soft and comfortable. The Fusion could also have used slightly better gadget/accessory pouches. You're given black, grey and green shoulder straps, so you can tailor the look to your own tastes.

**PC User says:** Good notebook pouch, but has abrasive fabric.