



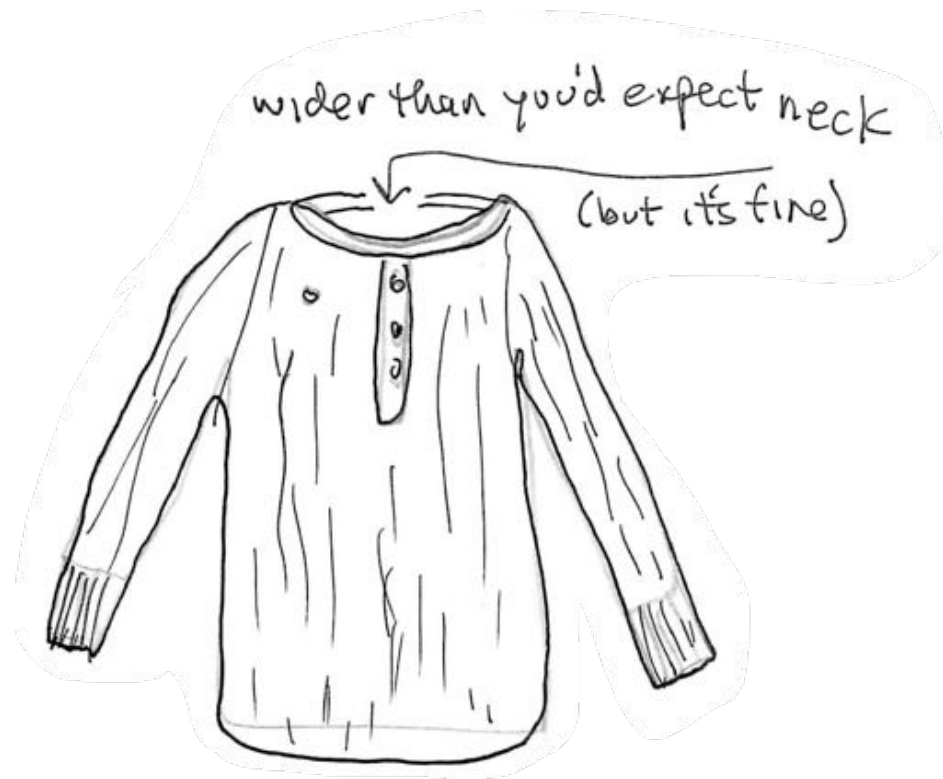
**Rivendell Bicycle Works  
2017 Holiday Flyer**

Now that - finally - after eight years - it is again OK to say "Merry Christmas!" on behalf of all of us here at Rivendell, I want to wish you all happy holidays, good luck to earth and all that's on it, in its waters, and the air and birds above it. ☁️

It has been quite a year, hasn't it? Disasters start to be just another piece of a weirder, darker jigsaw puzzle. Huge events - political, social, environmental - that would seem to be individually epoch-making, become almost <sup>old</sup> News Fast.

And here we are trying hard to pretend that bicycles, axes, shirts, wool, and soap matter. In the small picture they still must. So please go thru. this list of painstakingly curated goods and please see if any of these wonderful things might fit under your Holiday Tree.

Thanks! *Shut*



## Canadian Wrestling Sweater for smalls to med-L's

We found this homely sweater about 18 years ago, and I/Grant still have mine. I totally dig it. It's manly scratchy, but you don't wear it next to bare skin. It's tough, great looking, and has a style right out of the Nova Scotian '30s. Nova Scotian fishermen live in these year-round. It's cut long. You can cut off the excess and wash it in a machine, and it still won't fray. It's the magic of Nova Scotian knit! It's not dressy.

The maker is out of L and XL, but they run big. I usually buy XL or even bigger in foreign-made outer garments made of wool, but in this guy I can wear a MED. It's snug, but feels good, ribbed and clingy, and stretchy.



## CANADIAN WRESTLING DUB-L-DUTY SOX

They're 80-wool/20-nylon, so they won't shrink like the 100 percenters we used to sell. And you know what?—they're dirt cheap as good quality wool sox go. Good for wearing with boots or sandals or sneakers or dress shoes that you buy sized for Winter.

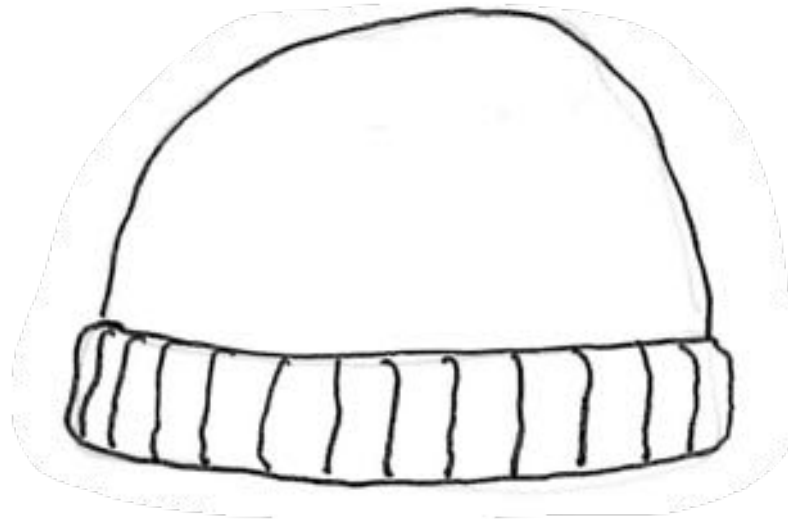
You can make handwarmers from them, as shown. It works great. We encourage it. Save the planet!

Gray with red toe-heel-cuff or red with gray in those places.

Sizing: shoe size 10.5 or bigger, get L

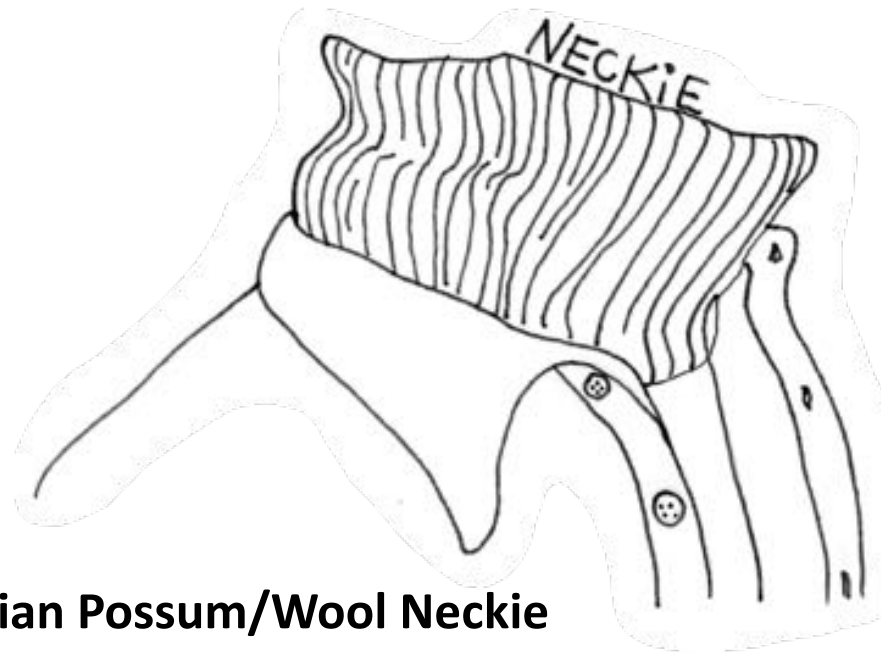
8 to 10.4, M

Smaller, S



## **Canadian Wrestling Beanie.**

It's all merino wool, thin-smooth-black. Wear it at night or under a helmet or layered under another hat that's not warm enough. It wads up in your fist. Have it with you always. If you regret owning this within a year, send it back and we'll give you twice what you paid in credit toward any purchase of \$500 or more within a month.



## New Zealandian Possum/Wool Neckie

About two centuries ago Australian possums (not American ones) were brought to New Zealand with the idea of creating a lucrative fur trade (the pelts are luscious). But New Zealand is an oceanic/volcanic island. It didn't just break off from an existing land mass that already had mammals. That's significant, because where there are mammals, there are birds that fly and other animals that have evolved some way to escape their claws and teeth.

NZ was mammal-free, so its birds (like the famous Kiwi, but others, too) never evolved to fly. So once the Aussie Possums were there, they multiplied like bunnies, and have been marauding the native flora and fauna for 200 years. For the last decade they've been eating (this is not a mistake or lie or typo) twenty tons of native vegetation every %\$#@ night—and eating the native animals.

The NZ government subsidizes businesses that “harvest” the vermin for profit. They catch ‘em, kill ‘em, skin ‘em, and in some cases, make these neckies from the fur.

This neckie is a wide loop of knit of possum wool and merino wool. Wear it as a scarf or a topless hat/ear warmer. We've worn these and sold these every winter for 10 years or so, and love ‘em. A nice cozy gift. Not as soft as synthetic fleece, but plenty soft for anybody who hasn't yet been spoiled. Good!



## Australian Zip-T all woolmidweight

OK, we've got your winter outfit all pick out for you. Here's your base layer. The gray Nova Scotian sweater goes on top of it. Unless it's raining, that's it. Let the snow fall and stick; brush it off when you walk into the diner. Tackle your Newfoundland and try to pin him in a snowback. In a light rain, forget the shell, this sweater is enough. This zip-T is the most useful garment you can own if you live in the northern half of the country.



## MUSA Cotton CanTuckit Button-down.

On the surface these are classic button-down *Hasbro-style* Oxford cloth-like shirts like your dad and grand-dad wore.

But on closer inspection, the all cotton MUSA Can-Tuck-It button-downs put those shirts to shame.

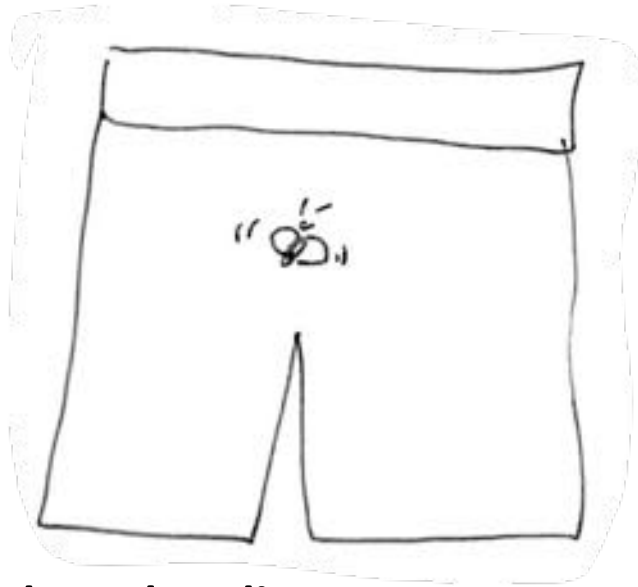
Our fabric costs more and is better. It comes from Japan, and the difference is blatant. It is finely woven, has more color depth, and a feel that says multi-generational wealth. The blue makes even Ralph Lauren oxford blue appear pallid, bleached by salty winds and on its way to white. And the Spring Grasshopper Green and appears to shimmer, and when you look at it close up. The most amazing thing is, it got its green with yellow, but no blue.

Buttons: Each shirt has 14. The cuff and collar buttons are butterscotchy tan, and the seven placket buttons are, from the bottom—tan, gray, blood, crip, tan, dark orange, and the top one is dark red. There's one pocket per shirt, and its button appears to be dark blue.

The multicolored buttons pay homage to multiculturalism and food groups, and as far as we know, are a Can-Tuck-It world premier exclusive. If you lose a button, any 20-ligne (roughly 12mm) button will fit right in, take its place, not stand out. If you're going someplace fancy and think the colored buttons will get you stopped at the door or fired from your job, cover them with a tie. Then on off hours after work at the pub or after that at the karaoke bar, take off the tie, reveal the buttons, and you're king of the party.

The tails are long enough to tuck, but short enough to look boss untucked. We were doing that way before the passionate guy was.

Of course they're good for cycling!



## **New Zealand wool undies**

Midweight all-merino wool relatively seamless in the crotch, and to withstand a years worth of crotch abrasion. Ideal for travel, because you can wear one pair a whole week, flipping them upside down every other day. They also double as hotel swimming pool trunks—and get automatically washed that way, saving you money in laundry costs. It all adds up.

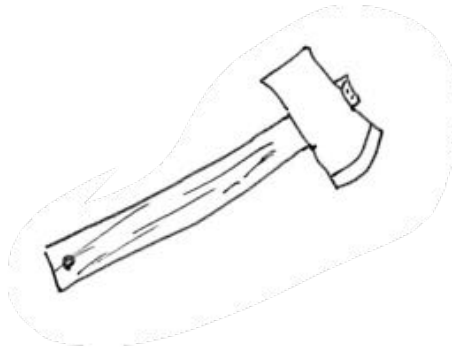




## **GRANSFORS AXES**

Gransfors-Bruk makes axes in a red barn on the banks of a creek on a dirt road in the middle of Sweden, and they're the best axes and hatchets in the world. Oh, there must be some lonely hermit somewhere making an ax a week that's fancier, but Gransfors axes are to be used, not collected, and they are gorgeous in every detail.

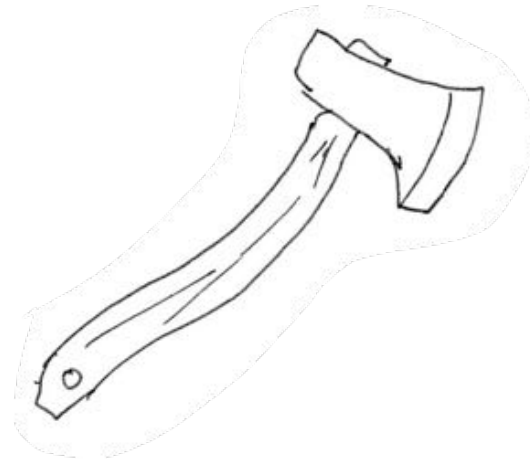
Eventually they'll go all executive as the rich set discover them and prices skyrocket, but for now you're out the door for \$130 to \$225 or so, and you've got the most beautiful, function tool of its kind ever made. In ten years I predict prices will more than double.



## **Mod. 410 (Mini Hatchet)**

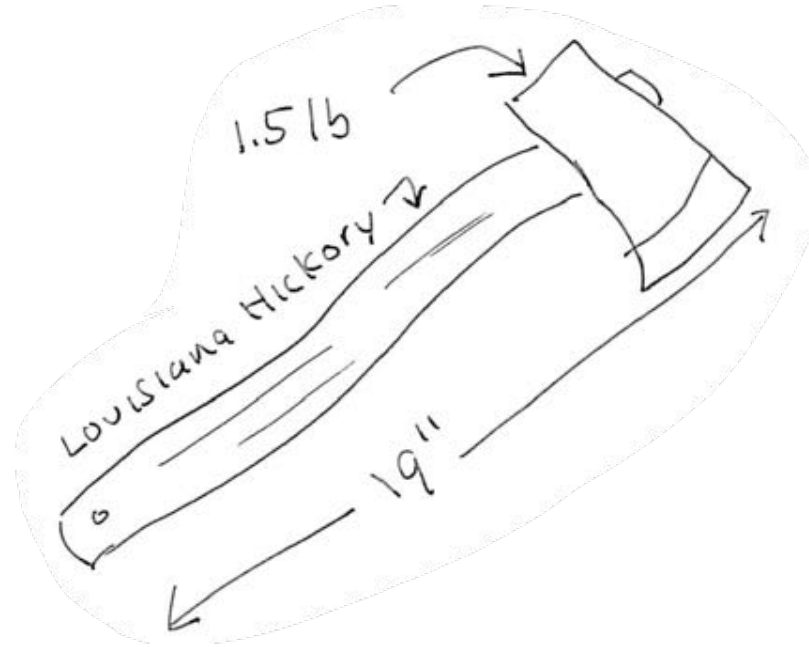
It's 10 inches long but can leave a mark. Not for splitting or limbing, but good to excellent for making tent stakes, hiking sticks, marshmallow sticks, opening boxes at work, or you can hold the head and carve, knife-like.

It's the ultimate dreamy stocking stuffer. A serious tool made as well as any hatchet in the world. Useful for bike camping, any camping, or any rambling in the woods. When you aren't on an airplane, have it with you. It weighs 12oz.



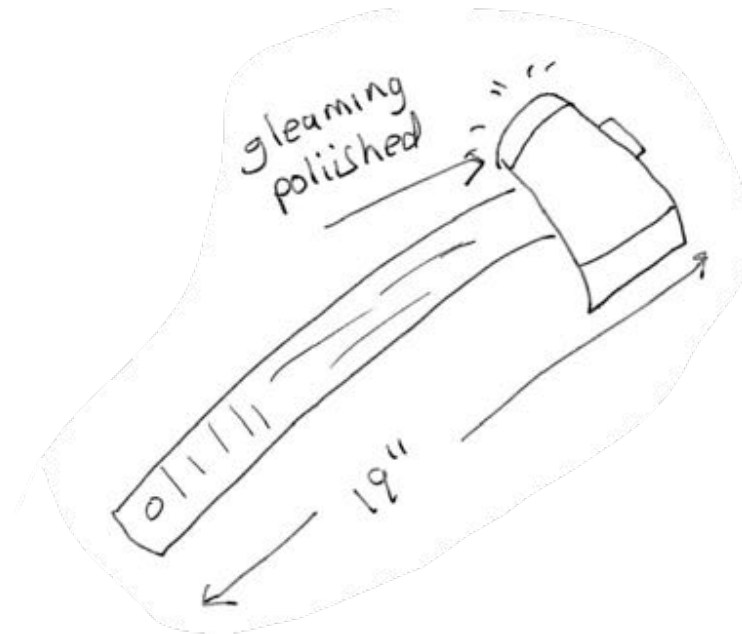
## **Mod 415. (Wildlife Hatchet)**

OK now: 13-inches long with a 1-pound head makes it idea for most campfire chores, medium limbing (taking the sub-branches off bigger ones to make spears or hiking sticks); and it can chop down small trees. Our second most popular model (after the #420).



## Mod 420. (Small Forest Ax)

Nineteen inches long, 1.5-pound head means it's two-handable for serious limbing, light felling, decent splitting...and I have used it to make more than 500 kitchen implements and shoe horns (there's not much difference, when I make 'em). But I use these things every day of my life, and they're testament to the #420's versatility. This should be your first choice.



## **Mod 418. (Hunter)**

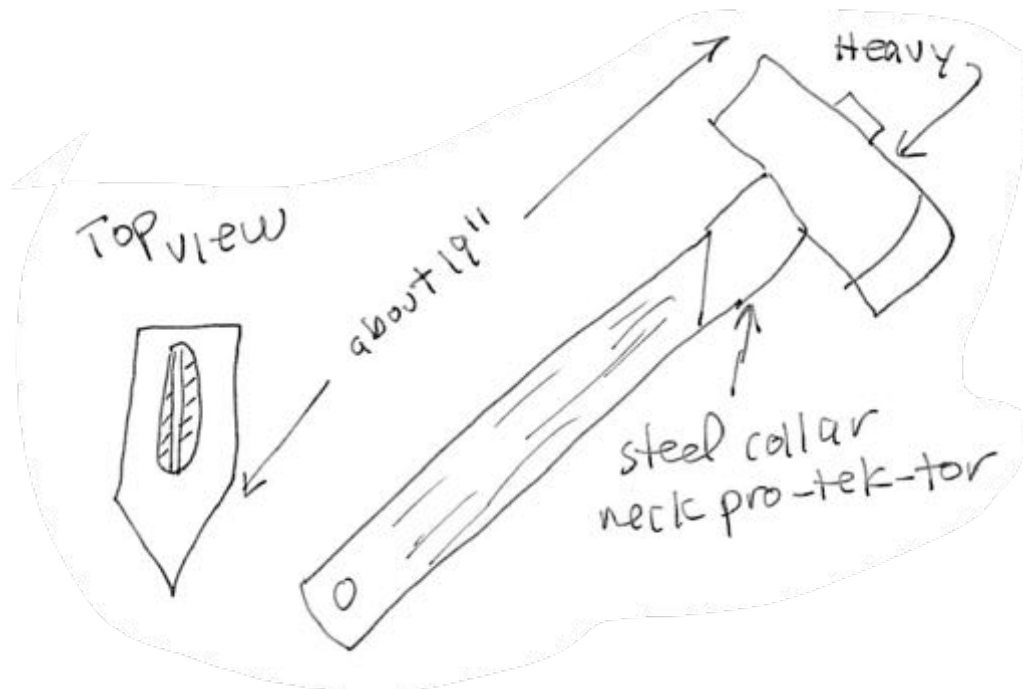
It's the same 19-in x 1.5lb head as the exalted #420, but:

The head is polished on the back—it glistens like chrome—and that's better for separating the hide from the flesh of a dead mammal.

The handle has a different shape, no better or worse, with grip-action grooves that make it easier to grip with blood-soaked hands.

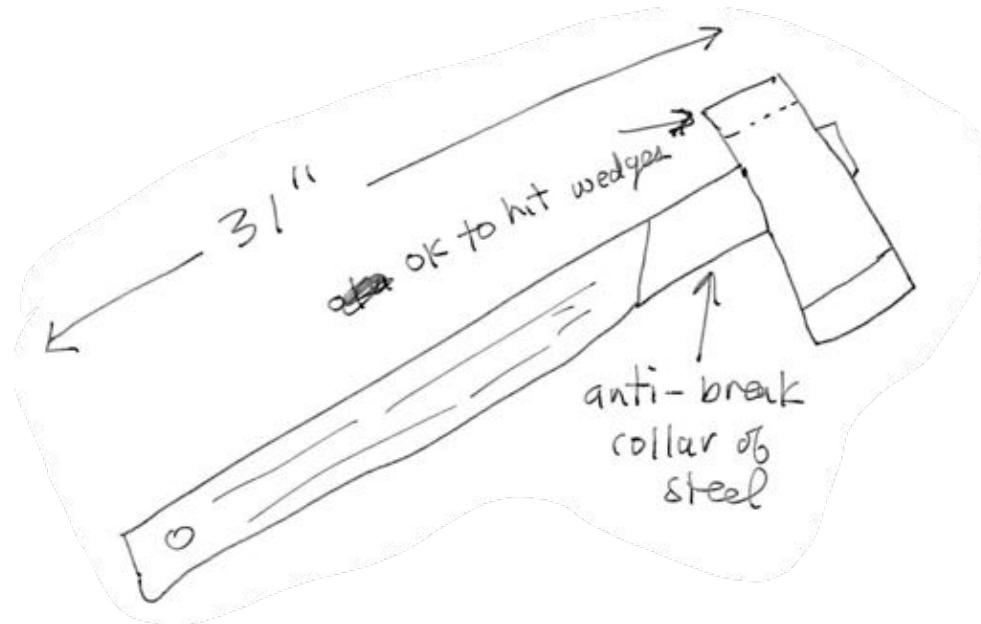
It costs more than a #420 because of the extra polishing and grooving.

If we're out of the #420 and you're desperate for a cool gift; or to separate yourself from hoi polloi, get this one and call it a great day.



## Mod 439. (Splitting hatchet)

The 19-inch handle and stout abrupt wedge head make fireside splitting chores a breeze. One handed or two. Give it enough speed and let the heavy head dig in and drive the wood apart. Works better than a mere ax or hatchet, but not as tote-able. If you split a lot of medium wood by a fire, this is your savior.

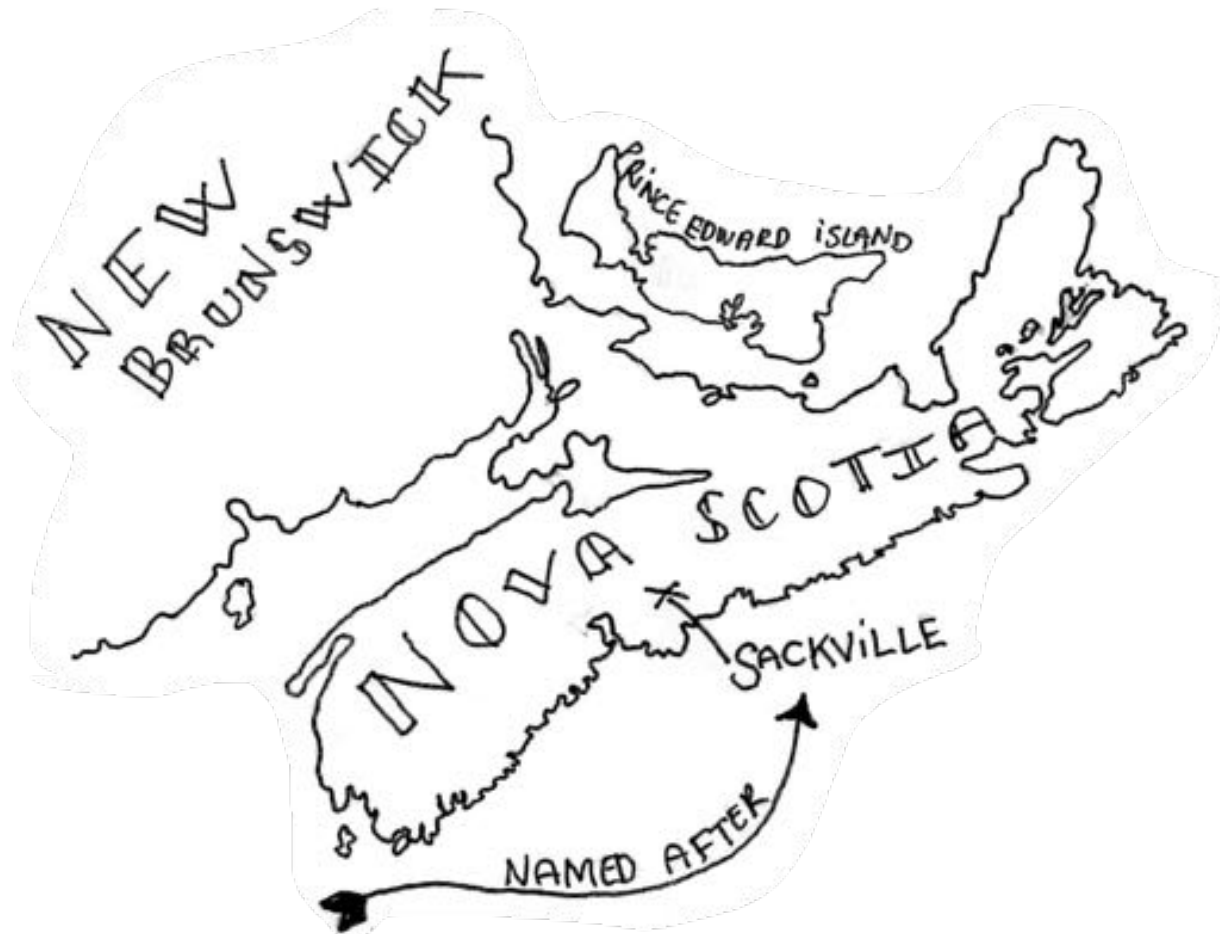


## Mod 450 (Splitting Maul)

It's 31 inches long total, with a 5.5lb splitting head for driving tough wood apart with a strong swing, or easy wood apart with hardly a swing at all.

The "maul" means the poll—opposite the blade—is treated to pound wedges, too. You can't do that with the others. Got wedges, get a maul.

All Gransfors splitters have a metal collar to protect the neck during inevitable overstrikes. Splitters without this eventually die, unless the whole goddamned handle is steel.



## Sackville Note

It's unclear whether we'll be able to get the groovy Scottish fabric after we run out in April. We'll find something  $\frac{3}{4}$  as good, though. And after January 1, our costs are going up on all Sackville products, so we'll pass that on to you, hoping for all of our sakes that your 2018 raise will cover it. They're already the second most expensive bags we know of (Billes Berthoud cost more). But we gotta. So order before Dec 21 to get the best of the already high prices. Thanks. — Grant

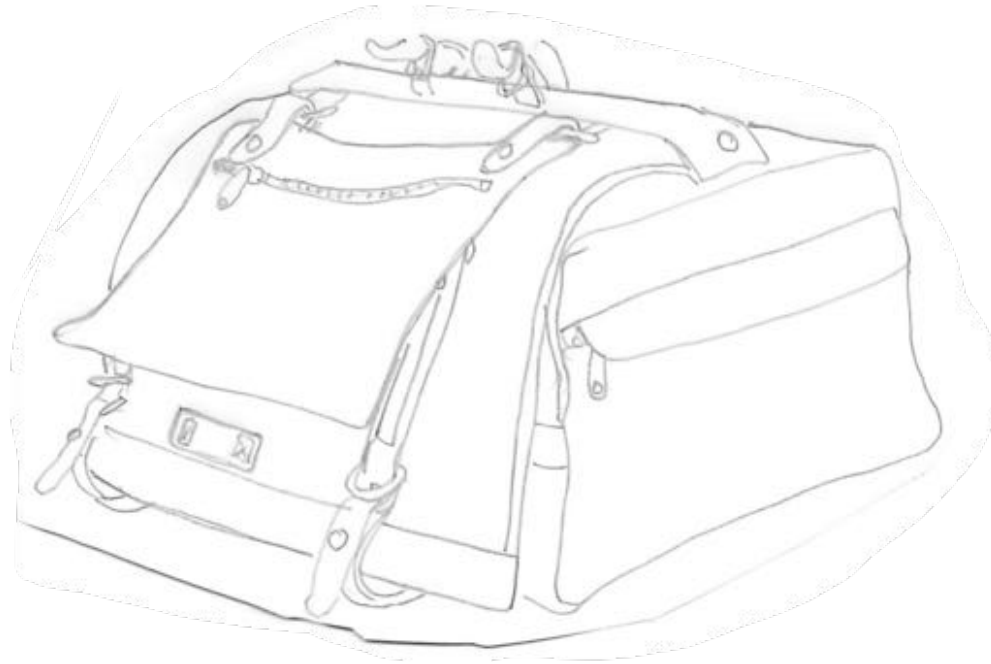




## Sackville SaddleSack Small

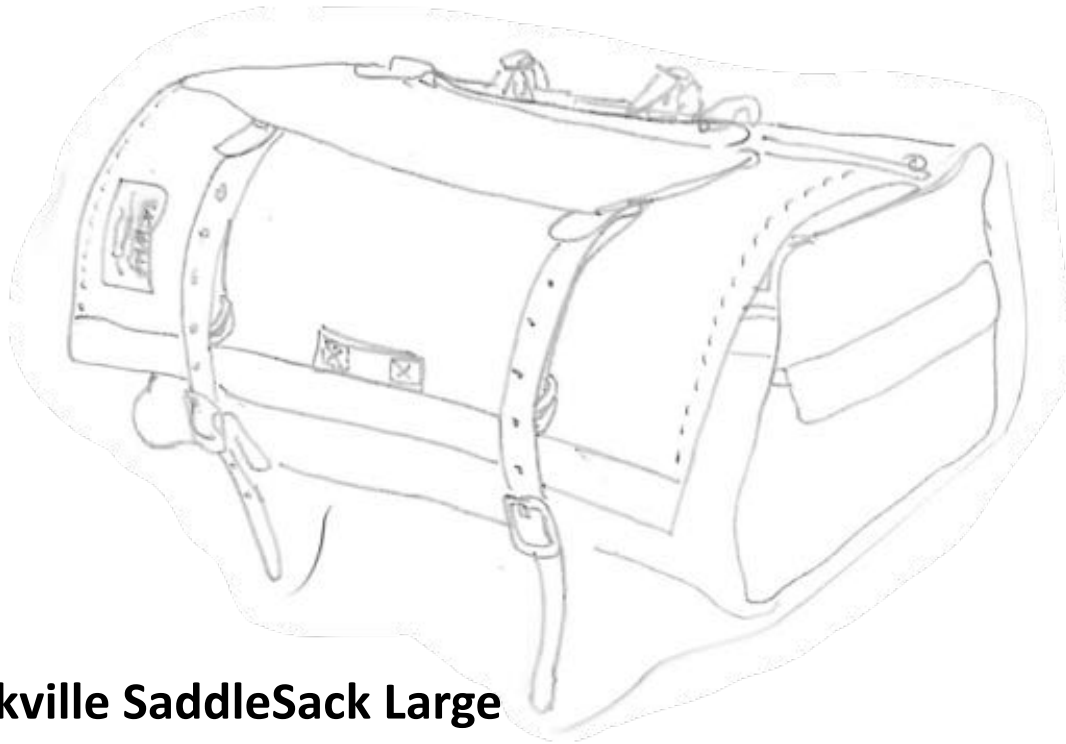
We originally designed this to slide in the small gap between a small bike's saddle and its big tire, and it's still good for that. But over the last five years it's proven to be a killer bag for bikes of any size. Sometimes you don't need to carry a massive load of groceries, but you still want to be able to cram books, clothes, a computer, and many blocks of cheese in there, and this "small" SaddleSack does that all the time.

It's the fastest loading and closing saddlebag in the world. One strap, open or closes it. A flap holds the load securely, A reflective strip keeps you alive, and a light clip completes it. It's a simple bag, super affordable and useful. The new Silver color is killer, but it also comes in blue, olive, and brown.



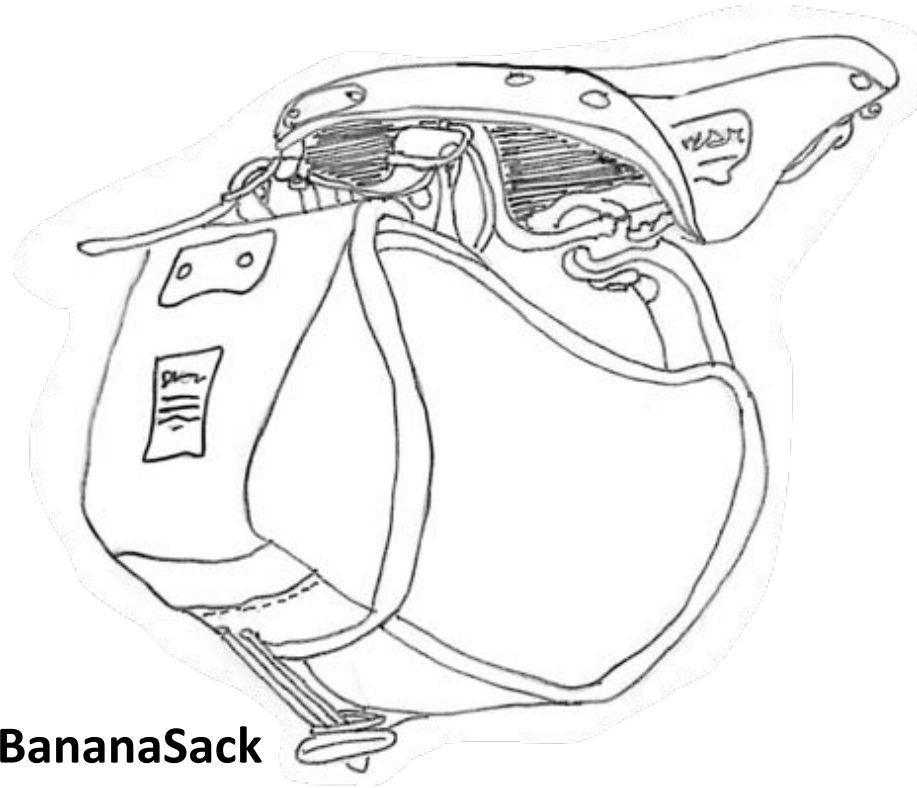
## **Sackville SaddleSack Medium**

The most allaround useful SaddleSack, and our best seller. The last we checked, mid-November, the fabric maker no longer listed this fabric. And it's the best fabric in the world. If you live with your bike; you tour, go places, camp, shop, and commute year-round, this bag is essential.



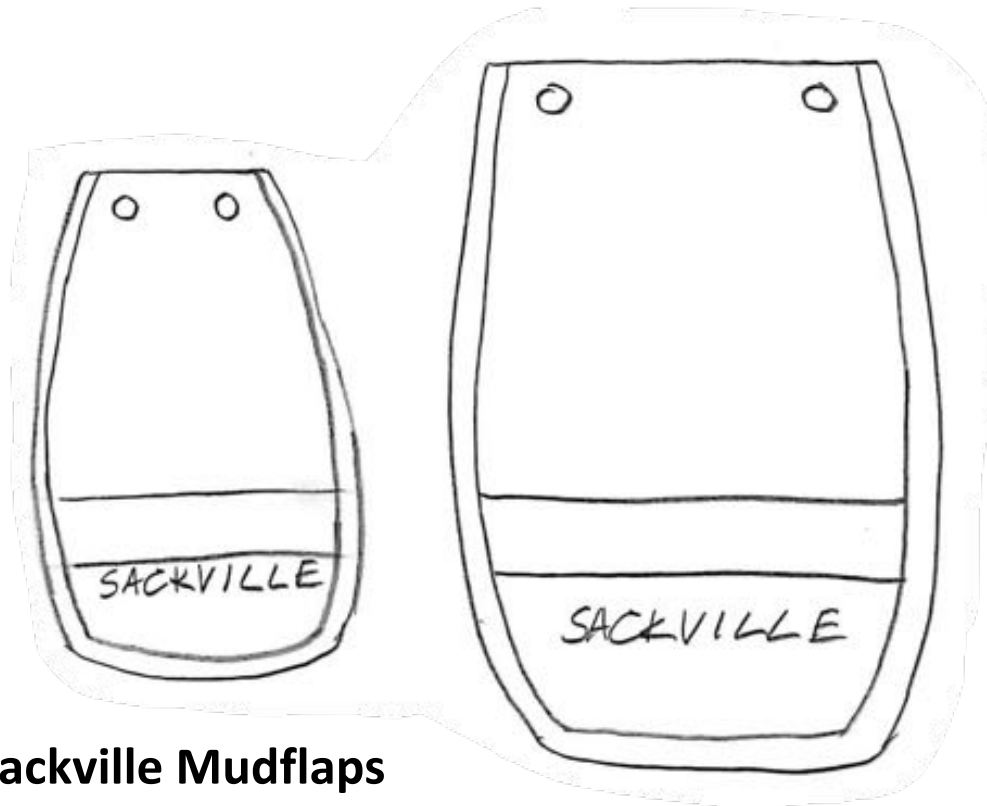
## **Sackville SaddleSack Large**

It's the biggest saddlebag in the world, massive, and carries about 2/3 as much as two large panniers. There are times when you'll be glad you had it. Easily holds two and a half gallons of milk and a pair of rainboots.



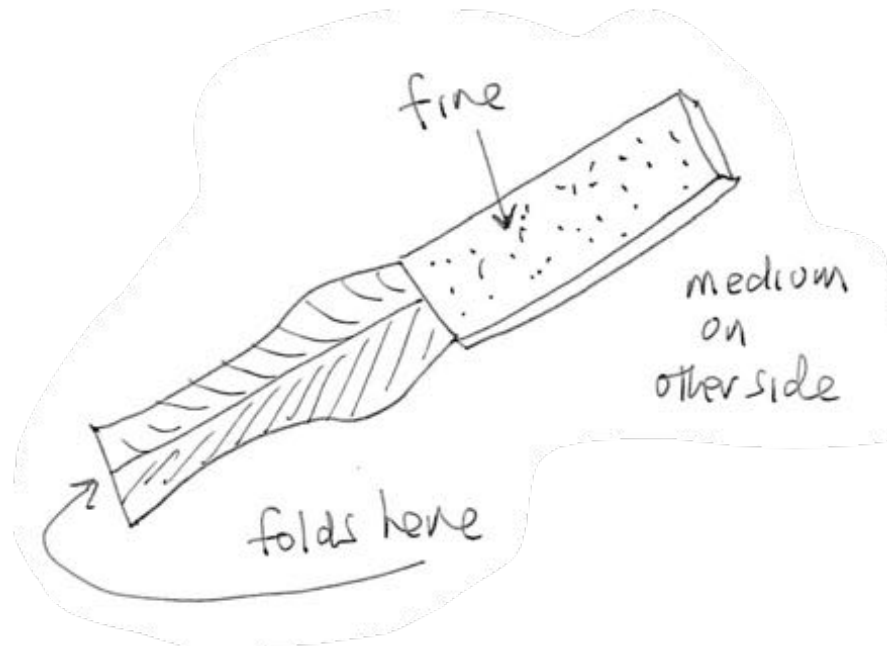
## Sackville BananaSack

We made this years ago, stopped, many small bag makers took up the slack in the interim—good for them all!—and now it's back with the most refined, perfect design yet. Ever. There's a new mounting rig that is so obviously better, I feel stupid for not thinking of it myself. I think Roman did. Vince? Will? I think it was Roman. No matter—the point is, the BananaSack is better for it, because it makes it a cinch to mount on a saddle or on the handlebar. And the closure is our world-beating but not world-famous ring-and toggle. So neat, so fast. Inside, there's a similar thing that closes flaps and helps the bike keep its shape, but still shows the load inside, and gives you access without having to undo it. A sleeve pocket inside holds your cell phone., money, or keys.



## **Sackville Mudflaps**

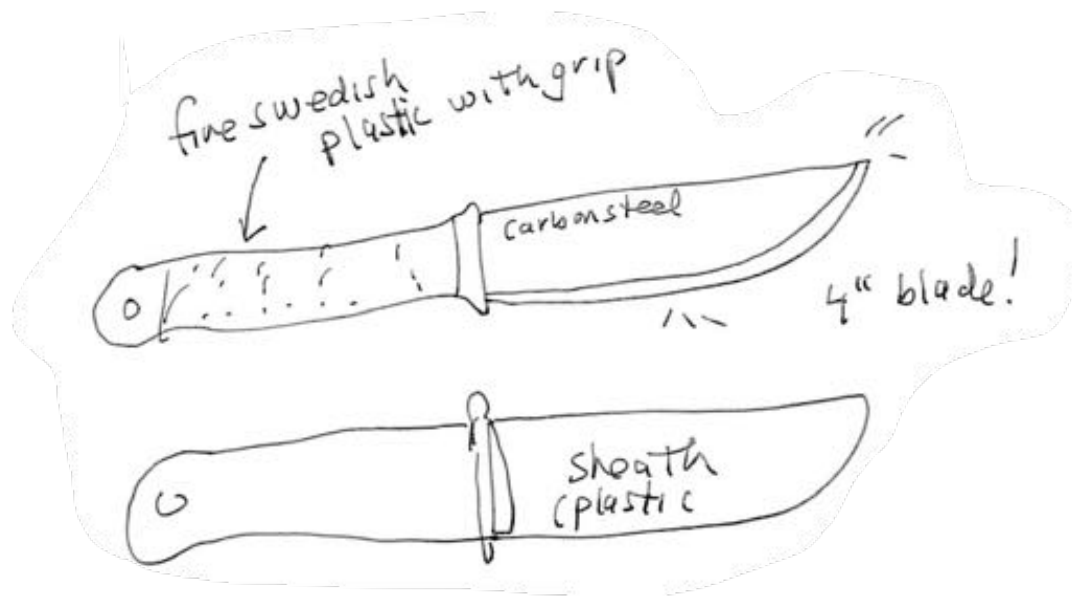
We have the originals, ideal for fenders up to 40mm, and now widies, for even fatter fenders. They're marginally precious and nutty, considering that you can make equally functional ones with milk jugs, water bottles, or duct tape. . .but for those for you those don't want to ride around with garbage on your fenders, get these and be instantly inducted into the society's coveted upper-crust.



## Folding Ax Sharpener

We've used a million sharpeners, or at least a dozen, ranging from cheap to outrageous, unknown to famous, and this one is the ONE we recommend if you aren't going to lather up with a whole damned arsenal of honers. One side is medium grit for making dullish sharp. The other is fine for making sharp shaving sharp.

Easy to use, lasts a long time, works for knives too—but it's super for axes.



## Swedish MORA carbon steel belt knives

This is the Toyota Corolla, the Parker Jotter, the Pentax K1000 of sheath knives, except it's made in Sweden. Naturally MORA makes a million models. Go online and knock yourself out if your time is worth nothing. Otherwise kickstart your life or the life of a friend or relative with this inexpensive and perfect bad fella that'll handle any chore you're likely to need it for in the next 50 years.

Olive handle and sheath for stealth; Safety Orange for brilliance. Carbon steel blade (not stainless) for the best combo of edge-holding and resharpenability.

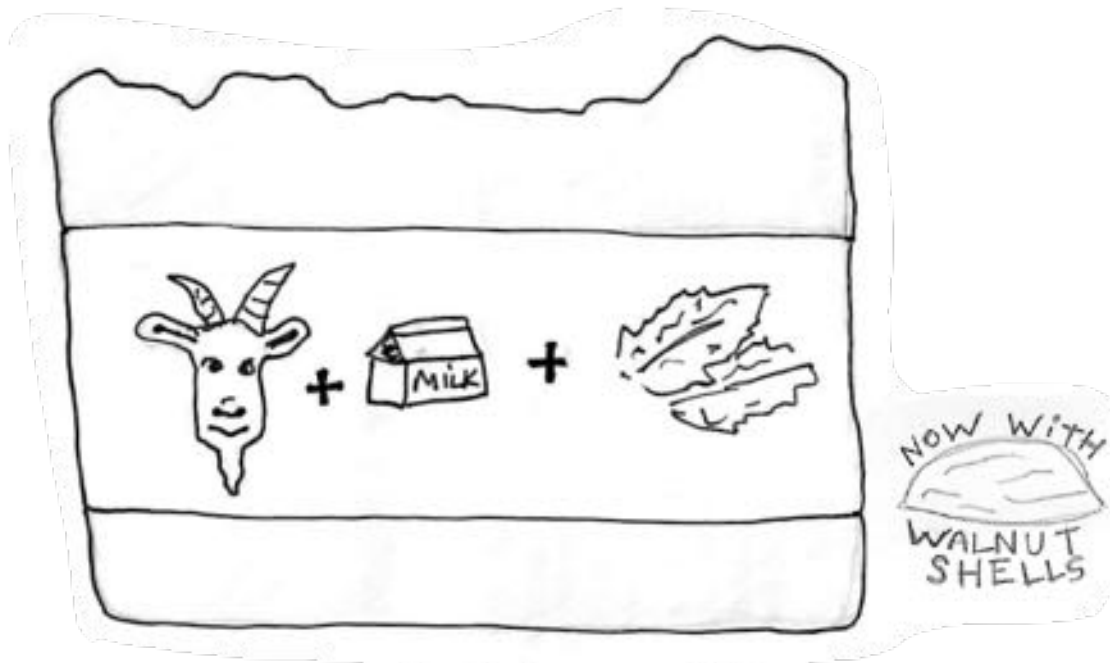


## Pine Tar Soap Plural

Grandpa's is mild, good for rookies, and you may never move beyond it.

Porcupine is hard core, a full 20 percent Swedish pine tar.





## Goat Milk Peppermint soap—now with Walnut Shells!

Up in the northwest section of California where most farmers grow herbs, some simply raise goats and turn the milk from same into soap gold. Like our other soaps, it's brown, but this is a soap you want to keep away from your cheeks, armpits, and crotch, because it's gritty like lava, but instead of igneous rock, the grit comes from—you guessed it—ground walnut shells.

It cuts through slick grease and sticky sap and any other foreign substance you might have on your hands almost as well as Phil hand cleaner; but as is not the case with Phil, you don't have to wash up after using it, because it rinses easy and is just soap and doesn't come in a tub, either.

A huge, crudely cut 6oz bar will half a year, which comes to a dollar month. We have a bar in the bathroom here, and I/Grant use it at home, too. It's fine for rough patches of skin, too—a good exfoliant, etc. U-needa bar of it around. Really useful. Goat milk, a few other plain ingredients, and peppermint oil—how bad can it be?



## **MUSGO REAL shave cream**

The best and best-smelling in the world. Portuguese. Those who use it always want it. If you're buying it as a gift, get the guy five of them, because it's hard to find except on you-know-where, and we have a good price, anyway. And here we are telling you about it.



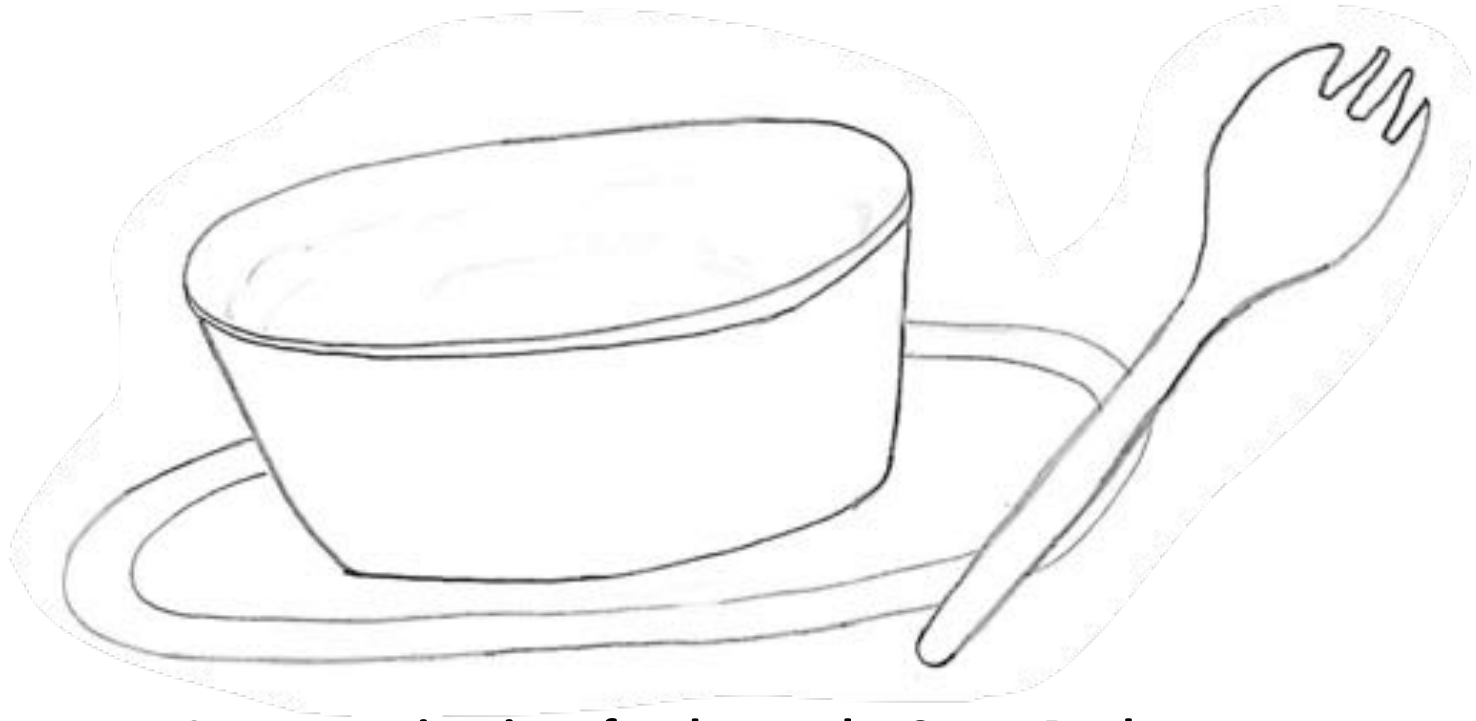
## **Odd-flavored Super-expensive Italian Toothpastes**

Licorice or Ginger. So good. Perfect in a stocking.



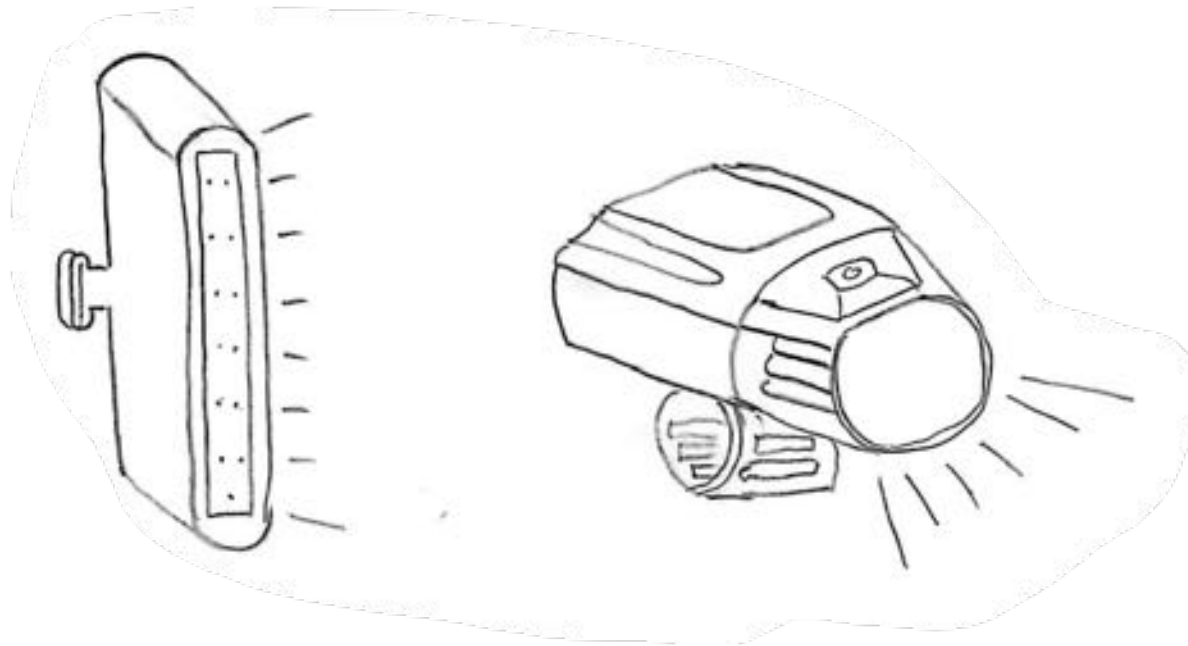
## Minnesota-made Rivendell Mug

By Redwing Stonewear. Jenny picked the shape for its flat-top/anti-tilt handle. Sheer genius. Gorgeous and earthy. Made with the same mud for about a century. Yes, we know the person you're buying for already has a dozen mugs, but they're all shamefully cheap and tacky compared to this bad Oscar.



## **Japanese titanium food-ware by Snow Peak.**

I eat off one of the plates about 180 times a year. When I was into cereal, the bowls were my go-to. The spork is the second-best salad utensil in the world most of the time, and it's No. 1 if you're eating out of a large metal bowl with curved sides. All together they weigh like an ounce, they're so durable, your great grand children will be eating with them. Yum!



## **The two best rechargeable battery lights in the cosmos.**

Both by Cygolite, made in Chino, California—not to be confused with China, Eastern Hemisphere.

The front Dart 210 front light is tiny, mounts easily anywhere, and holy cow, at close range it'll blind you.

The rear Hot Rod is red, long and skinny, also mounts anywhere, and bright as hell fire. The only “better” bike lights cost millions of times more and require new wheels. You must know somebody who can use a good bike light or two. No bike bag should be without one.



## **Fat Tire Flyer (by Charlie Kelly)**

Nobody in the all-time world is as qualified as Charlie Kelly to write the history of the mountain bike, and it so happens that he's a great writer, too. If somebody on your list might want to know how it all happened, this is the book to get. Plenty of photographs to keep the pages turning.



## **The Ultimate Bicycle Owners Manual (by Eben Weiss)**

Actual owners manuals that come with bicycles are written primarily to keep manufacturers out of court, and so they are unavoidably irritatingly tedious to read, and that's why nobody in his or her right mind reads them cover to cover—as short as they are. Eben Weiss wrote this counterpart that is easy to blast through and tells you what you actually need to know to be reasonably safe on your bike, and how to get along with it. Any old rider will agree with it and still learn new stuff; any new rider neeeds to read it.





## **A Book of Nonsense (by Edward Lear)**

Like *The Song of Hiawatha*, this also came from 1848. What year! And also like *Hiawatha*, it was common essential everyday reading for kids through the mid-'60s. Maybe Viet Nam killed a lot of good books. This one is mostly limericks (There was an old man of Dunblane..), and although they do indeed seem nonsensical, at a deeper level, they're genius. As is the section on botany, and the short stories about the guys who went to sea in a sieve. You've heard of *The Owl and the Pussycat*? That's in here, too. It's from that poem that we got sporks, even if the spork makers won't admit it.



## **Just Ride (by me) and Eat Bacon, Don't Jog (also...)**

Just Ride is still relevant after all these (8?) years. Maybe more. I wrote it and still believe everything I said in it. It's about riding normally, unracing yourself, and not automatically copying racers because they're supposed to be so smart.

Eat Bacon, Don't Jog is a good book about how to get control of food and lose body fat and exercise as little as possible for great results. It's so easy to read, and it's good information.