

## Belkin FlyThru Bag Review

by Allison J - 11/21/2008

by Allison Johnson

Travelers, rejoice. Gone are the days of taking your laptop out of your bag at security checkpoints ... kind of. We reviewed one of the new TSA approved checkpoint-friendly bags and overall, we had some positive results.

The **Belkin FlyThru** laptop case meets the criteria recently approved by the TSA as one of the new checkpoint-friendly travel bags. These bags are designed with a compartment solely intended for your laptop. When the bag is unfolded, it will offer airport security a clear x-ray image of the computer while allowing you to keep it safely tucked in the bag. Everybody wins. Three designs have been approved by TSA. The FlyThru bag unfolds in the butterfly style pictured below.



To find out more about the regulations, follow the link to TSA's website.

[http://www.tsa.gov/press/happenings/simplifying\\_laptop\\_bag\\_procedures.shtm](http://www.tsa.gov/press/happenings/simplifying_laptop_bag_procedures.shtm)

### Belkin FlyThru Laptop Case Specifications

- Sized for both standard and widescreen laptops up to 15.4"
- Exterior: 13" x 16.5" x 4.5"
- Interior: 11.25" x 14.8" x 0.8"
- Removable shoulder strap with foam padding



### Screen Test

Unfortunately, there's no guarantee that airport security will comply. Even with a specially designed bag, airport security officers can still ask you to take your computer out of the bag if they feel this is necessary. Is a bag that may or may not make it through security worth the \$60 price tag? A member of our editorial staff took it on a security checkpoint test run to find out. She unzipped the bag and placed it properly on the conveyor belt. Initially, the security officer was not pleased. The bag was sent through a second time. Finally, security was satisfied, and the bag ultimately stood up to the test. Victory.



### Taking it to the Streets

I road tested the Belkin bag, taking it to the mean streets of the suburbs to see how it functioned with day-to-day use. My Dell Latitude E6400, a comparatively slim laptop, fit snugly inside and was secure in the durable foam lining. With it slung over my shoulder, I think I looked pretty sharp with my sleek, black laptop bag.



However, I noticed a creaking sound coming from somewhere on the shoulder strap with every step I took. Loading it with enough weight seemed to put stress on the plastic attachments between the strap and the body of the bag. A persistent creaking sound ensued. I preferred holding the handle and skipping the strap altogether. No hassle, no noise. This is easier to do when you aren't juggling luggage and boarding passes, but for general purposes, I liked the Belkin FlyThru bag, even when I wasn't flying anywhere.

### Conclusion

Overall, I would recommend the Belkin FlyThru laptop case to a traveler of any kind. Compact, with a solid design, I felt confident that my laptop and gadgets were well protected inside this bag. It had a few quirks, and airport security wasn't all warm and fuzzy about it. Ultimately, it did everything we asked it to do.

### Pros

- Simple design
- Foam padding kept laptop secure
- Passed through airport security (with a minor hiccup)
- Compartments and pockets keep belongings organized

### Cons

- Persistent creaking sound from shoulder strap
- Airport security might still be skeptical of the bag

### Pricing and Availability

The Belkin FlyThru Laptop Case (F8N094) is now available in the US on the [Belkin website](#) for \$59.99.