

Description of the 1998 CamelBak[®] M.U.L.E.[™]



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Assignment # 2: Physical Description
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What is a CamelBak M.U.L.E.?

What if you could store energy on your back like a camel? Although you can't carry the amount that a camel can (two weeks' worth of energy in its hump), you can carry a day and a half's worth of liquid fuel for your body with a CamelBak®. You can access your choice of hydration—hands-free—during an activity such as walking, hiking, or biking.

This document describes the 1998 CamelBak Medium to Ultra-Long Endeavors (M.U.L.E.™). It provides an overview of its features, specifications, and operation.

What are its features?

Descriptions for the following numbered items are on page 4.

CamelBak M.U.L.E.



- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Adjustable belt | 6. Shoulder straps |
| 2. Elastic cords | 7. Reservoir |
| 3. Small zippered compartments | 8. Tubing |
| 4. Mesh compartments | 9. Mouthpiece |
| 5. Main zippered compartment | 10. Tab |

#1: Adjustable belt

A strong fabric belt helps stabilize the CamelBak on your back. The belt fits through a loop on the main zippered compartment and has a quick-release, plastic buckle. The ends of the belt can be pulled to fit it snugly around your waist.

#2: Elastic cords

Two thin, elastic cords extend the width of the main zippered compartment. One is a third of the way from the top of the main zippered compartment; the other is a third of the way from the bottom. The elastic cords can hold items such as a lightweight rain poncho.

#3: Small zippered compartments

Two zippered compartments are on the front of the main zippered compartment. One of the compartments is four inches high and five inches wide; the other is nine inches high, eight inches wide, and one inch deep. They can accommodate small items including snacks and car keys.

#4: Mesh compartments

Two 15-inch high and 8-inch wide compartments are made of a mesh material so that any damp items can dry. These compartments can also store items such as maps and a first aid kit.

#5: Main zippered compartment

This compartment of insulated fabric keeps the reservoir's contents hot or cold. You can place the reservoir into this compartment and then pull the tubing through a hole in the top of the compartment. On the back of the compartment, the ventilated panel of DuPont® CoolMax® fabric helps keep you cool and dry by wicking moisture away from your body and then quickly drying the moisture.

#6: Shoulder straps

The position of the ergonomic, padded shoulder straps at an angle over your collarbones allows the CamelBak to nestle comfortably against your back along your spine. The shoulder straps can be adjusted by sliding the black fabric portion through the quick-release, plastic buckle.

#7: Reservoir

The reservoir is a plastic bag that can contain your chosen beverage—hot or cold. A round, wide-mouth stopper at the top of the bag permits easy filling and seals in the liquid and ice, if desired. The bottom of the bag opens into tubing that uses gravity to force the liquid into the tubing.

#8: Tubing

The tubing connects the reservoir to the mouthpiece. You can route the tubing either over your shoulder or under your arm to easily gain access to the mouthpiece.

#9: Mouthpiece

The sturdy plastic mouthpiece is the patented Bite Valve™ design that fits tightly over the tubing. When the mouthpiece is at rest, its slit is shut; the liquid stays within the tubing and does not leak from the mouthpiece. When you gently bite the mouthpiece, its slit opens (as shown) so you can sip the reservoir's liquid without using your hands. If you do not blow into the mouthpiece, the contents remain untainted from backwash.

(The final document will contain two illustrations of the mouthpiece here.)

#10: Tab

A 2-inch long and 3/4-inch wide fabric loop is secured to the main compartment. This tab can hold items such as a safety reflector or blinker.

What are its specifications?

This CamelBak model has the following specifications.

Characteristic	Value
Color*	Forest green
Capacity	Up to 100 ounces of your selected beverage
Dimensions	16 inches high by 8 inches wide by 4 inches deep
Weight	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1.6 pounds if the reservoir is empty• 7.5 pounds if the reservoir is completely filled
Cost**	\$70.00

*Other colors were available. Today, a similar model is featured in moss, black, or mango.

**Similar models currently cost \$80.00.

How's it work?

The reservoir can be filled with a liquid such as hot cocoa, ice water, or a mineral-packed, sports drink. After sealing the reservoir, you can tuck it in the main compartment. Next, you can pull the tubing through the opening in the top of the main compartment and then place it either over your shoulder or under your arm. To dispense the liquid without using your hands, you can take the mouthpiece in your mouth, press it between your teeth to break the seal, and sip.

For more information about how to use and care for any the CamelBak features described in this document, see the *CamelBak: The Unbottle System Owners Manual*.

So, the next time you're going to be outdoors and want to drink a beverage but keep your hands free, don't be stubborn—remember your CamelBak M.U.L.E.

Notes to Photographer/Illustrator/Editor

1. Feel free to create another photograph to replace the one on page 3. Interestingly, this document's photograph does not appear on the printed page using my home printer; however, the photograph appears on the printed page using my office printer. Additionally, the photograph displays excellent detail on my home computer monitor, but it's very dark on my office's screen.
2. Please draw two views of the mouthpiece and include them on page 5 under the heading called **#9: Mouthpiece**. One picture should be a side view. The other picture should be the front view and show the slit slightly open.

Bibliography

Graphic

"mtbk.jpg." CamelBak. <http://www.camelbak.com/rec/hydrate.cfm>.
15 September 2002. Biker with CamelBak graphic.

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