

Overhead

A “simple” suit bag is a sweet reminder of how the West is won

Making Partner

One hundred fifty years ago, before the advent of high-speed Ethernet — or paved roads, for that matter — East Coast dealmakers needing to overnight their contracts, deal sheets and stacks of financing documents West placed them in the care of the world’s fastest courier service on four feet. The Pony Express couldn’t always guarantee “before 10 A.M. delivery,” but it could usually manage

“before tenth day.” And besides, it sported some damn fine-looking saddlebags.

So fine, in fact, that when California rancher Jay Holland and his brother, philosophy grad student Guy, started their Mulholland Brothers leather-goods company in 1989, they used the same Lariat saddle leather to craft their signature Simple Garment Bag. Deceptively smooth and delicate to the touch when new, the warm honey-brown hide of the Simple Garment Bag

roughs up as gracefully as a saloon girl on *Deadwood*. The secret is in the tanning, which enhances the bag’s natural marks and character scratches, and a topcoat of shoe cream wax that withstands rain and enables it to dry without the slightest cracking.

Perfect for an overnight business trip, the Simple Garment Bag secures two suits by hanger or sturdy double D-ring, then folds in half for compact carrying with two rolled-leather handles or the detachable canvas shoulder strap. Don’t let its slim silhouette fool you: Pockets and zippered compartments inside make for easy storage of shirts, socks, briefs, belts, flask and 60-GB iPod revolver. Even after 150 years, riding to the ends of the earth can be long and lonely work. Which is why it’s comforting to know that at least you can carry your sense of style along with the goods. **D**



THE FILE
Mulholland
Brothers Simple
Garment Bag
in Lariat

Cost \$550

Dimensions 21"x23"x2"

Available In Bridle tan (shown), black, hazel and nine other combinations

Also Available In American alligator skin (\$9,615)

Contact mulholland-brothers.com

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Photograph by MATTHEW FURMAN