

Carry on in the Laptop of Luxury

Six cool computer cases at prices that don't mega-bite.

At least when notebook computers were just for working weekends and business slogs, their boring black nylon shoulder bags made some sense. But nowadays laptops are the sleek, sexy, go-anywhere source for music, photos, games, and all sorts of good times. So why has lame luggage remained the industry standard? Well, it's finally possible to upgrade to the sort of chic computer case you'd actually want to carry outside the office. We've rounded up six options—from a colorful knapsack to swank satchels that hold their own as handbags—all clocking in at under \$100. How's that for proof it's easy to tote your tech in style without crashing the old bank balance? —VALERIE RAINS



CONVENTION BRIEFCASE, \$75 Who says all boardroom-worthy bags will leave you bored (and broke)? For far less than typical briefs, this lucite-handled, leather-and-rubber satchel by San Lorenzo offers serious style that's sized just right for a PC. (888-567-3616)



METRO BACKPACK, \$85 Don't let the candy stripes fool you. With protective padding, six compartments, and adjustable shoulder straps, KaraB's laminated-cotton backpack (it also comes in faux leather) is all about utility. (www.karab.com)



BASIC SHOULDER BAG, \$29 This classic from Dickies now comes in 35 colors and hauls PC notebooks as easily as spiral ones, but the messenger bag is still made as strong and budget-friendly as ever. (www.yakpak.com)



JUNIOR BOND CASE, \$7 Like Rainbow Brite lunch boxes for laptops, Romanoff's transparent plastic carriers both shield and show off your gadget goodies—for about the cost of a midday meal. (800-828-9587)

POPPY PCNB SLEEVE, \$40 Think of it as a universal adapter: Gyms Pacific's snug neoprene sleeve will transform any unpadded pouch into a cush joint for your computer. (www.gymspacific.com)



ALLORA LAPTOP BRIEF, \$90 When you consider that it has more pockets than a pair of parachute pants, a handy detachable strap, and is large enough to stow the most oversize laptop, it'll strike you—Koie's vinyl bag is a real bargain. (905-480-0283)