

Chicago Tribune

GEARBOX

Water bottle carries cargo

Name: Contigo Kangaroo water bottle

What it is: A 24-ounce plastic water bottle with a hard plastic pouch for holding identification, a credit card or a key. It comes in five colors.

The good: Well-made and sturdy, the Kangaroo seems built to last. Ideal for the gym crowd — those who need to carry an ID or locker key. Contigo's "autoseal" technology makes the bottle virtually spill-proof and leak-proof. For the beach, one could stash a little cash in the compartment. Its stainless steel travel mug similarly impressed. Full of coffee and held over a white shirt while heading to the airport, the coffee mug didn't spill a drop. (The coffee mug doesn't have the pouch.)

The bad: The water bottle is a bit wide and not terribly easy to carry, and the flip-up carabiner doesn't help all that much. If you don't need the pouch in front, you will be annoyed that you are losing space that could be filled with water.

Cost: \$12.99

Available from: gocontigo.com

— Josh Noel,
Tribune Newspapers

