

Tested on Tour FUEL CARRIERS



Story | Craig Nicholson

More fuel-efficient 4-stroke and 2-stroke engines have improved gas range and lowered operating costs. But even as the fuel economy of our sleds improves, in many regions it's getting more difficult to find gas. Certainly, mountain and other off-trail riders can't head out without enough gas to play and make it back okay. And the day may even be fast approaching when long distance trail riders have to carry extra gas just to be safe. That's why I decided to try out two systems for transporting spare fuel...

Port Tack Racks

This powder-coated aluminium rack is lightweight, corrosion resistant and designed to fit on the back of most makes and models. I had one on a long track sled and another on a short track. They were easy to install, didn't interfere with the sled, and are rock solid once in place. Look great too. For most sledding use, a Port Tack Rack comes in two sizes. Standard (\$199) holds up to two 19-litre jerry cans standing upright, while the Compact (\$179) fits either one 19-litre or two 9.4-litre ones (There is also a larger utility size rack available.)

I travelled 3,000 kilometres with full jerry cans and never lost a drop or a can thanks to how snugly Port Tack Racks hold them in place – and to their unique adjustable strap system.

Made of rugged webbing and a heavy-duty composite, the ends of this easy but strong fastener ratchet tight so that nothing moves until you want it to. Depending on how much fuel you choose to carry, there's enough space for other gear too. When not carrying fuel, Port Tack Racks is ideal for holding a small bag of necessities. Check out Port Tack Racks at: www.porttackracks.com.



Port Tack Racks

Powder Keg, LLC

Made to fit on Arctic Cat, Polaris and Ski-Doo snowmobiles, a Powder Keg Combo PAK provides both fuel and gear storage on the back of your sled at a cost ranging from \$149 for one to \$385 for a Combo PAK. A fuel keg, constructed of a heavy duty, black composite material and holding between 10 and 12 litres, lies flat in the top of the sled tunnel. Depending on your model, you may be able to piggyback another fuel keg above that. Either way, you can top it off with a

storage keg that will keep your contents secure and dry all day.

These various "kegs" are moulded to fit your sled and each other as one integrated, unobtrusive and streamlined-looking package. Best of all, each keg is fastened in place and to each other with four stainless draw latches and a unique swivel locking system. Again, I rode umpteen kilometres in all kinds of trail conditions and nothing ever came loose or fell off.

Initially, I had a little difficulty removing the cap of my fuel keg, but that's probably a good thing since it lies on its side all the time and never leaked. Check out Powder Keg LLC at: powderkegllc.com.

Both systems are excellent choices depending on your usage. Port Tack Racks can carry more fuel, while Powder Keg has a more integrated look on a sled. Mountain and off-trail riders may go for the most fuel, while trail riders may opt for a little less, with protected storage and a lower profile. If you're getting concerned about where the next gas is and want to carry extra with you securely, you can't go wrong either way.



Powder Keg, LLC