

## Style & Substance

### Brenthaven's Notebook Cases Protect Your Laptop

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I've worn through more notebook cases than I can count. Maybe I'm too rough on my laptop bags, or maybe I just carry my computer with me so much of the time that the cases don't last as long as my computers have. Lately, however, I found a couple of notebook cases that provide great notebook protection and hold up well.

#### Brenthaven Duo

The Brenthaven Duo case doesn't look like anything special, but once you use it, you'll know your money was well spent. The padding and protection the Duo provides is unmatched by most notebook bags. Brenthaven's Premium Core protection not only surrounds your computer with up to 2 inches of padding, but it also shields all four corners of your notebook, protecting it in case of a nasty fall. Furthermore, your computer should not budge, thanks to the interior, padded sides, which bow stiffly inward. When you slide your notebook into the case, these sides flex to accommodate your computer for a snug fit.

The exterior of the case is constructed of ballistic nylon that wears well over time. The case includes both a pair of comfortable, sturdy handles and a shoulder strap. Brenthaven's shoulder straps are hands-down the most well-designed, comfortable shoulder straps I've used. The strap doesn't slide off your shoulder, and it's very well padded, eliminating pain and fatigue. Also, the shape and position of the strap relative to the Duo case result in very evenly distributed weight.

The Brenthaven Duo case has a plethora of pockets and pouches to hold your accessories. It also includes a zippered enclosure on the lower-front of the case where you can store your notebook's AC adapter. Finally, you'll find a file-organizer on the back of the case and a wheelie strap for connecting the case to your luggage when you travel.



**Duo Shoulder Case (15-inch)**

\$149.95

Brenthaven

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**Women's Leather Tote**

\$129.95

Brenthaven

(800) 803-7225

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[www.brenthaven.com](http://www.brenthaven.com)

#### Brenthaven Women's Leather Tote

I've always wanted an attractive and professional-looking women's notebook bag. However, generally speaking, women's cases' quality of construction is so much less than similarly priced standard notebook cases that I couldn't fathom spending that type of money to leave my computer so woefully unprotected. This winter, I discovered the Brenthaven Women's Leather Tote, and everything changed. This notebook case, while not as well padded as the Brenthaven Duo, provides much better padding than other women's cases I've seen.

Also, the bag is deceptively roomy. When I first received the Women's Leather Tote, I thought, "Oh no, it's too small. My computer will never fit in there." Yet I found that there was plenty of room for my computer. There's also room to carry several file folders, a paperback book, my iPod, cell phone, a notebook mouse, and several other small items. The inside of the case features a small zippered mesh pouch that is the perfect size to store most AC adapters, and the pouch stays put inside the case, thanks to a pair of Velcro strips.

What impressed me most about this notebook tote, though, was how comfortable it was to carry. The weight of the bag is distributed so evenly that my computer actually feels much lighter in this case than it has in other notebook cases I've carried.

Finally, it's worth noting that my previous women's notebook case (not a Brenthaven) lasted just three weeks before the straps started to tear from the weight of carrying a notebook computer. I appreciate that the Brenthaven Women's Leather Tote carries a lifetime warranty (as do all of Brenthaven's notebook cases, including the Duo).

#### Substance & Style

In an age when style often wins out over substance, it is refreshing to find a pair of notebook cases that are well-designed, sturdy, and provide such great laptop protection. A lot of notebook cases cross my desk, and I can easily say that both of these cases are among the best I've seen. ■