

Review: bluesmart

Overview		
Fun	★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★	
Geekiness	★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★	
Usefulness	★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★	
Ease of use / installation	★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★	
Price-performance ratio	★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★	

Design & Hardware

- Height: 56 cm, Width: 35.6 cm, Depth: 23 cm, Weight: 4.26 kg
- Hard shell luggage: three-layer polycarbonate
- 34 liter storage space
- Secondary compartment accommodates up to a 15" laptop
- 10 Ah battery: USB/micro-USB in, USB out
- Bluetooth 4.0 (BLE), GPS, 3G

Features

- Bluetooth beacon allows to estimate proximity between suitcase and mobile phone and to issue notification on mobile app in case of separation
- Electronic lock can be accessed from mobile app and set to automatically lock when suitcase is out of range of mobile device
- GPS location tracking of suitcase
- Integrated scales
- Battery can be used to charge mobile devices
- LED to assist spotting suitcase in low lighting
- Compartment for easy access to laptop (up to 15")/electronic equipment

Suitability for daily use

- Useful to prevent or recover misplaced/stolen luggage
- Increased convenience for people travelling light (2-3 days trip): keeps track of luggage weight, charges mobile devices, easy access to laptop

Pros & cons

- + Long-lasting battery prevents mobile devices from running out of charge at critical times during travel
- + Because of cleverly designed pockets and compartments, has the potential of being the only necessary carry-on luggage
- + Helps ensuring that the content of the suitcase has not been tampered with during travel

- Connection between mobile phone and suitcase frequently breaks. This leads to:
 - false separation alarms, which make user ignore alarms altogether, virtually nullifying usefulness of feature
 - the need of constantly having to unlock the suitcase, which can be very time-consuming by using the app. User is thus forced to either use keys or to disable the auto-locking feature
- Around 53% of the 8 kg carry-on luggage limit is taken up by the suitcase itself (4.26 kg), effectively leaving only 3.74 kg for useful load. Adding approx. 2 kg of weight, corresponding to an ultra-light notebook and its charger, the maximum allowed useful load is further reduced down to 1.74 kg
- Weight measurement error can be significant: measurements have to be repeated several times for reliability
- LED color code and ritual to access suitcase from app not sufficiently explained
- Assessment of battery charge level very slow / inaccurate