

THE VINSON VIEW

Quality maniac and master shopper Nick Vinson on the who, what, when, where and why



HOW THE LOUIS VUITTON ECHO WORKS WITHIN THE HORIZON LUGGAGE

Developed in collaboration with Sigfox, which has a dedicated global network of 120 airports, Echo allows passengers to track connected luggage when travelling, thanks to the LV Pass smartphone app.

Echo can be slotted inside the case and runs on a rechargeable battery that lasts up to six months.

The first automated notification comes on arrival at the departure airport.

Echo turns to flight-safe mode on take-off and turns itself back on again on landing.

On arrival in a networked airport, the device sends a notification to the passenger's smartphone. In the unfortunate event that it turns up at another airport, the notification comes from that airport.

Passengers also get informed when the case has been opened via the combination lock.

01 Case sensitive

Picky Nicky is packing a punch in the travel department

With a flight almost every other week, I do a lot of packing. Getting that right means good luggage, ruthless editing, knowledge of how to fold, and somewhere to pack.

Over the past few months I have been air-testing Louis Vuitton's Marc Newson-designed Horizon cases, which have just been connected via the brand's Echo device. When a connected case passes through sensors in one of 120 international airports, you receive a notification via an app on your smartphone so you know the case has landed with you (or, depressingly, turned up somewhere else). It also tells you if your case has been opened.

Usually I travel with my Louis Vuitton monogram canvas Pégase 55 trolley case and matching Sirius 70 suitcase (or the Sirius 45 when I need less). I love the old-school look of it, though occasionally I feel pretty blingy. Horizon also comes in monogram canvas, but as the frame is moulded in a mesh matrix composite, it weighs very little and, as Newson relocated the extendable cane to the outside, it has more internal space, so you can get more in. Which, funnily enough, is not always what I need. I have had packing lessons and the key lesson I learnt is that editing is key. First lay out what you think you need and then edit again – there is nothing worse than returning with loads of unworn items.

What I really want is a dedicated packing space at home, and I have been plotting one with Patrick McInerney, the architect who designed my house in Florence and my Marylebone apartment. McInerney has come up with a design (see above) in which the main focus is a 3.4m-long counter, wide enough to view everything you need for a trip and hold a pair of open suitcases. The counter, crafted in American walnut with a tobacco leather top, will also feature a special light and a shelf below for additional suitcases and bags. There is a good 1.5m between the counter and some wardrobes, so all doors can be open and you can still move freely. The wardrobes, which are lit inside and lined in cedar, feature lightweight trays that can help organise stacks of shorts, shirts, sweaters, sandals and the like prior to packing.

McInerney is also a master of tech, so he proposed a flush-mounted screen to check the local weather, controlled by Neeo, and music to get you in the destination mood channelled through zero-sightline speakers by Sonance. I also need a steam vault for pre- and post-packing to ensure clothes are wrinkle-free. At this year's Salone in April, I spotted V-Zug's Refresh-Butler, which applies refreshing steam vapour within the wardrobe, so that should do the trick. Packed-by-Nicky will never be bettered. ★



02

Essential travel item no.1

Bose's QuietComfort 20 noise-cancelling headphones and SoundSport Pulse headphones (which tracks my running performance). £250 and £200, bose.com



03

Essential travel item no.2

I always carry a refillable water bottle in my carry-on, like this one by Eva Solo, to avoid drinking water served in single-use plastic bottles. From £20, evasolo.com