



Outside

SUMMER 2008

BUYER'S GUIDE



← The Coolest & Lightest Multitool Ever

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Hot New Products Tested

THE YEAR'S BEST GEAR

- Watches
- Trail Runners
- Daypacks
- Mobile Devices
- Road Bikes
- Sleeping Bags
- Cameras
- Hiking Shoes
- Sunglasses
- And More...

+ 26 KILLER VALUES:
Sweet Deals for Summer Fun & Adventure

DISPLAY UNTIL SEPTEMBER 30
\$5.95

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SPECIAL Women's Section!
(See Back Cover)



1. **JACKET** Rab's **Generator** is tough enough to stand up to the most abrasive rock. \$150; rab.uk.com 2. **SLIPPERS** Sure, this soft, slightly downturned Velcro slipper pulls harder than most other shoes on steep rock. But it's Stealth Green rubber, ground up from leftovers and painted all over the shoe's toe, that sets **Five Ten's Jet 7** apart. \$125; fiveten.com 3. **ROPE BAG** Metolius's burly **Porta-Cord** is a rope tarp that rolls into a backpack big enough to carry everything you need for a day of sport climbing. \$55; metoliusclimbing.com 4. **PROTECTION** Employing the company's tested small-cam angle for unmatched holding power, **Metolius's Master Cams** are narrow for tricky placements and ergonomically perfect in the hand. \$55-\$60 5. **HARNES** Thanks to revolutionary new webbing treatment (bye-bye, vertical strands of webbing), **Arc'teryx's R320** is comfier than a traditional padded design (no hot spots!) and crazy light and packable (just 11.2 ounces). \$125; arc'teryx.com 6. **BELAY DEVICE** Hard to believe, but **Petzl's Reverso 3** is even more versatile than its predecessor. It now fits almost every size rope (single and half/twins), meaning you'll need just one belay device. \$30; petzl.com 7. **SHOES** **La Sportiva's** popular **Miura** gets a long-awaited update with Velcro to become the **Miura VS**. Same edge control, in an easier-on, easier-off package. \$140; sportiva.com

—AARON GULLEY

HIKE

04

Climbing Essentials



Nike Air Zoom Trail S+ \$85

VERSATILE AND FAST

We're not saying you were the kind of kid who got chased home from school. We're saying if you were that kid, this shoe could have saved your ass. With a snug fit and low-to-the-ground design, the Zoom inspires high-speed running on everything from hard-packed dirt trails to steep, rocky mountain routes. "Like a racing flat, it actually made me feel like I should be up on my toes all the time," one tester remarked. A slightly subdued lug pattern allows for precise footing on technical trails, while a forefoot shield offers ample protection from sharp rocks without feeling too rigid. Caveat: Toe protection is minimal. 10.2 oz; nikerunning.com

La Sportiva Crosslite \$85

SPEEDY BUT GRIPPY

Fact: The Italians make great shoes. Lesser known fact: They dominate competitive mountain running. That combined mastery is evident in the Crosslite, which is all about getting through the rough stuff as quickly as possible. A race-ready shoe with a minimalist design, the knobby-lugged Crosslite combines the flex of a track flat, the deep tread of a European fell-racing shoe, and a dual-density rubber outsole—stiffer at the heel, softer at the ball of the foot for traction through fast turns. It's low to the ground, which saves weight and affords great trail feel, but it lacks cushioning for high-mileage runs or packed terrain. 11.5 oz; sportiva.com



DUAL-DENSITY OUTSOLE

Best for wet or technical terrain. One rubber is harder, for durability; the other is softer, for grip and braking.

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Still not sure which trail runner is right for you? Watch Buyer's Guide editor Sam Moulton give the inside scoop on his favorites at outsideonline.com/buyersguidevideo.

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New Balance 874 \$90

CAN TAKE THE HEAT

The 874 is built like an elite road racer: a slender torso atop a powerful lower body. A weird physique for a shoe? Perhaps, but the combination of an almost lacy, two-layer mesh upper wedged to a thick midsole and luggy tread works extremely well on soft trails and mildly technical routes, especially in hot, arid conditions. A socklike interior mesh liner translates to a secure footbed and a snug, responsive feel. While a hard plastic plate and stiff forefoot shielded our feet from trail obstacles, most testers thought the upper had insufficient side armor and toe-box protection for running on sketchier trails. 11.7 oz; newbalance.com