

# PERFECT SUMMER GEAR

# Outside buyer's guide

SUMMER 2014

THE ULTIMATE GEAR RESOURCE

# 360 HOT NEW PRODUCTS

ADVENTURE-READY ACTION CAMS

THE LATEST WEARABLE TECH

BIKES FOR ALL BUDGETS

MINIMALIST PACKS



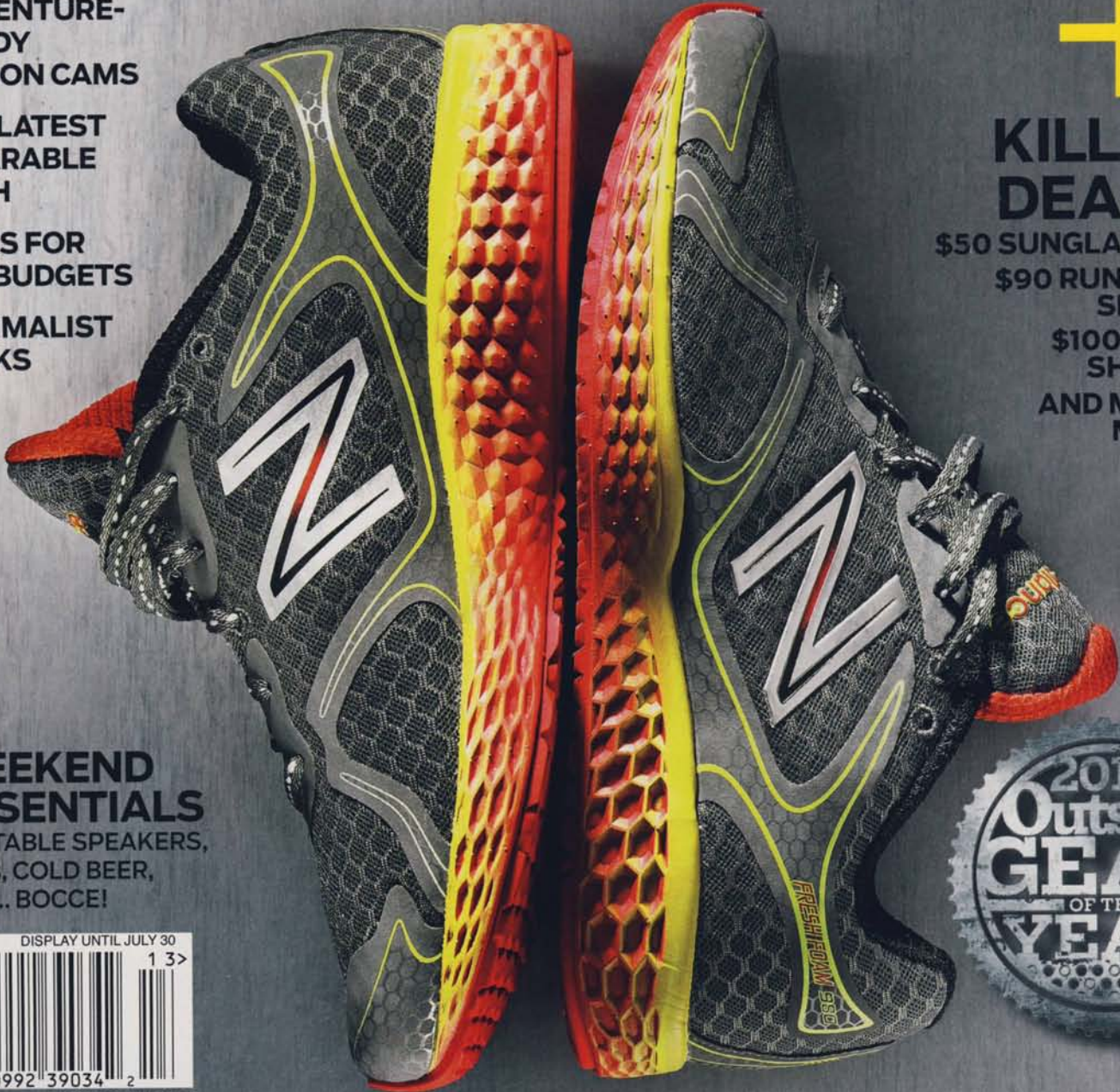
## KILLER DEALS

\$50 SUNGLASSES

\$90 RUNNING SHOES

\$100 RAIN SHELLS

AND MANY MORE



## WEEKEND ESSENTIALS

PORTABLE SPEAKERS, SUPs, COLD BEER, AND... BOCCE!



\$7.95 DISPLAY UNTIL JULY 30



OUTSIDEONLINE.COM



## BIKE

## MOUNTAIN BIKES

*Bigger wheels and smarter frames mean much better bikes*  
 BY AARON GULLEY

The revolution is over, and the 26-inch wheel has all but disappeared. Meanwhile, bike geometries have gotten so good and the differences between 27.5-inch wheels and 29ers so small that testers often wondered which hoops they were riding. Advances in carbon layup have resulted in frames that are lighter and stronger. Aluminum is still pervasive, however, and it remains the best option for anyone on a budget. Design features like through-axles and tapered headtubes, which add rigidity and steering precision, are making all bikes easier to ride. The bad news is that prices keep going up: \$10,500 for the costliest bike on our list. But technology trickle means that even budget bikes are faster and more durable than comparable models from a few years ago.

## GEAR OF THE YEAR

**Norco Sight Carbon 7.1** \$5,252

At first we thought the 27.5-inch wheel was just another fad, but Norco won us over. Last year's 6.3-inch Range was the deffest enduro machine we tested. And the new 5.5-inch Sight is so balanced that it softened the staunchest 29er devotees. It's quick and snappy, as expected with midsize wheels, but feels even more playful than most. The compact frame begs to clamber over rocks and launch off kickers. It ascends like a cable car—in spite of the 1x11 XO1 drivetrain, it never felt undergeared—and pounced down technical descents like a panther. At a svelte 26 pounds, it's the complete package, right down to the stock dropper seatpost and the durable Maxxis Ardent tires. Every single tester review sheet concluded the same way: "I'd buy this bike." 26.8 lbs; norco.com  
 CLIMBING: 4.5 / DESCENDING: 4.5 [OUT OF 5]





## URBAN CYCLING

City biking gear finally gets cool

BY AARON GULLEY

**Torch T1 Midnight Edition helmet** \$150

A few helmet companies have dabbled in integrated lights, but the Torch's huge panel of LEDs are the biggest, brightest, most visible we've seen. Charging is ingeniously simple: just plug the dual-headed cable directly into ports on the helmet's underside. [torchapparel.com](http://torchapparel.com)

**Abus Bordu Combo 6100 lock** \$130

This unique combination lock, which unfolds like a carpenter's ruler from a seven-inch block, is tougher than cable, and there's no key to lose. [abusabus.com](http://abusabus.com)

**Specialized 74 Long Finger gloves** \$55

Cut from buttery Pittards leather, with cushy palm pads and subtle contrast stitching, the 74 is as comfortable on your handlebars as it is wrapped around the steering wheel of your Audi Allroad. [specialized.com](http://specialized.com)

**Kitsbow Rudy jersey** \$220

The lightweight merino wool kept us cool and dried fast, thanks to the shoulder-to-shoulder back vents. But it's the contrast pocket and spiffy collar that make this the most versatile—and stylish—jersey ever created. [kitsbow.com](http://kitsbow.com)

**IVI Giving sunglasses** \$140

Save the full-wrap *Tron* look for workouts and slip on these wayfarers for mellower jaunts. They're built from burly Italian block acetates, and the Carl Zeiss lenses are sharper than Cancellara on race day. [ivivision.com](http://ivivision.com)

**DZR Tosca shoes** \$120

Herringbone and leather bring Italian elegance to this high-top sneaker. And thanks to the stiff shank in the sole and recessed cleats, it pairs as well with pedals as it does with jeans and a blazer. [dzhshoes.com](http://dzhshoes.com)

**Knog Blinder Arc 5.5 light and Blinder Road R blinker**

\$120 and \$60  
An integrated rubber strap makes popping the super-slim, ultrabright (550 lumens) light on and off the bars easy, and a blinker out back ensures you'll be seen. Both power up via USB. [knog.com.au](http://knog.com.au)

**Rapha Touring shorts** \$125

These slim-fitting shorts have tech DNA, including zip pockets all around for security and a stretch nylon that moves with you as you pedal. Wear them alone for short missions or over your bibs for all-day affairs. [rapha.cc](http://rapha.cc)

**Chrome Chekhov Rolltop Utility belt** \$110

Don't call it a fanny pack. It's a utility belt, like what Batman wears. There's room for everything you need for a day of tooling around town—camera, jacket, tablet, water bottle—and an external phone pocket for quick calls. [chromeindustries.com](http://chromeindustries.com)





1.

**Hitch or roof?**

We've got both kinds: the Yakima and Thule are the former, and the RockyMounts and Küat are the latter.



2.


**FIELD TESTED  
CAR RACKS**

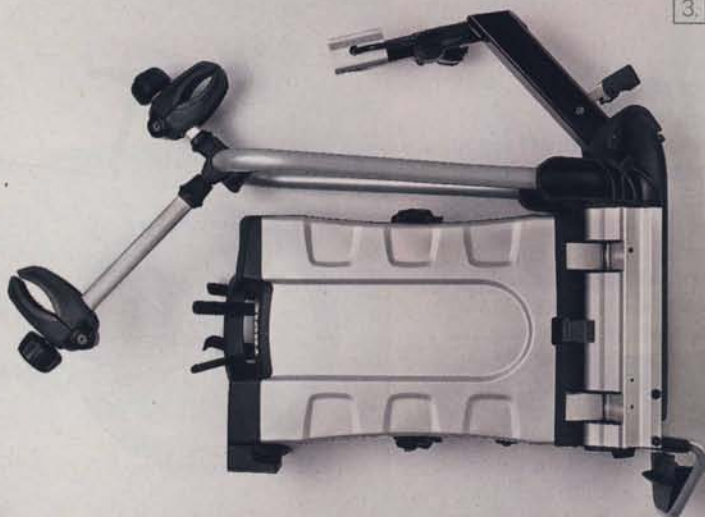
*Haul more gear, have more fun*  
BY WHITNEY JAMES

**BEST FOR:** Versatility

**1. RockyMounts Brass Knuckles** \$200

Downhill mountain bike, dirt bike, or beach cruiser? This roof rack takes all comers. And the sleek profile makes it more aerodynamic than the competition (read: it won't drag down your gas mileage as much).  
rockymounts.com

3.

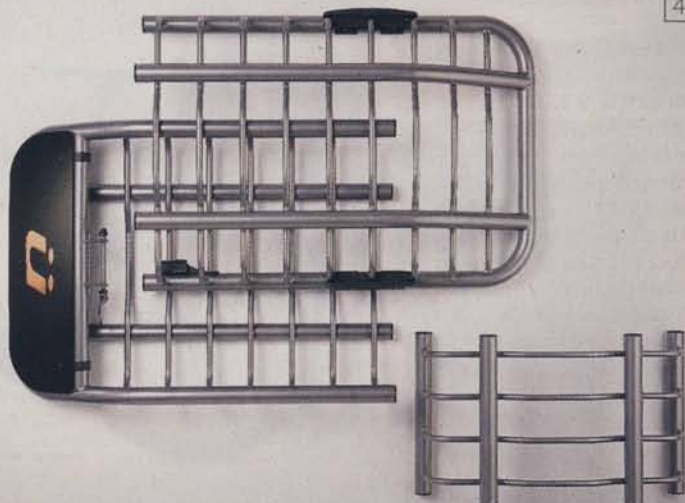


**BEST FOR:** Ease of Use

**2. Yakima FullSwing** \$499

One bolt is all it takes to install this hanging hitch-mount rack. And with the touch of a button it swings away, so you can get into the back of your car. The sacrifice for that easy access is twofold: bikes with step-through or nonstandard frames require an adaptor to carry, and even with the anti-sway cradles, bikes are more likely to get jostled or scratched than on a platform hitch like the Thule.  
yakima.com

4.



**BEST FOR:** Strange Cargo  
**3. Thule EasyFold** \$700

If you've got heavy, pricey, or oddly shaped bikes, or if you're storage-space challenged, the EasyFold is the ticket. Folded up, this platform-style hitch rack is about the size of a suitcase. The base unit is rock solid, which, combined with the wobble-free hitch mechanism, keeps bikes from knocking into one another. There's even a removable ramp for loading and unloading heftier rigs.  
thule.com

**BEST FOR:** Fun Hogs

**4. Küat Skinny** \$389

Long and lean, the Skinny allows you to maximize roof space by lashing down various odds and ends—fishing poles, waterproof duffels, tents—on either side of the integrated bike rack. Smart: a table-leaf-like midsection lets you increase carrying capacity by 30 percent. Bummer: assembly is easy but not quick, and the bike mount takes standard forks only.  
kuatracks.com