

315 PRODUCTS TESTED



Outside BUYER'S GUIDE

KILLER DEALS!

185
SMART
BUYS
FOR
UNDER
\$150

SUMMER 2010

THE YEAR'S BEST GEAR

Daypacks
Hiking Shoes
Sunglasses
Mountain Bikes
Sleeping Bags
Watches & More

PLUS: THE
COOLEST
NEW TOOLS
AND TECH



← New
Balance's
905 running
shoe



Field Tested BINOCULARS



How We Tested Them:

Six of us took the best new glasses on the market and went hiking in Colorado, cross-country skiing in Minnesota, elk hunting in New Mexico, and so on—with multiple stream dunkings along the way. These four performed the best.

Birding on the Cheap

Pentax DCF NV \$219

Perfect for the neophyte birder who wants quality glass without blowing his inheritance. The DCF NV's semi-compact design was fast on the draw, and the rubberized exterior helped protect them from inclement weather—and more than one clumsy drop. Their 16mm eye relief allowed for comfortable, strain-free viewing with or without glasses, and the multicoated lenses and phase-coated, super-reflective prisms provided great image contrast—meaning you'll be able to distinguish that yellow-rumped warbler from the branch it's sitting on. 8x36; pentaxsportoptics.com

General Scoping

Redfield Rebel \$150

Acquired by elite optics company Leupold & Stevens in 2009, Redfield is back this year with the Rebel, an ergonomic and economical binocular that's a great all-around choice. The fully multicoated lenses stood up well to repeated stream drops and didn't fog up in cold-weather testing, plus an armored aluminum body provided unmatched durability—part of the reason they come with such a great limited lifetime warranty. 10x42; redfield.com

Traveling Light

Brunton Epoch Compact \$895

These pocket-friendly glasses proved their worth on a trip down under, where spotting honeyeaters and musky rat kangaroos was easy. On our test back home, they were the best small binocs of the bunch, with tight, clean images, thanks to top-of-the-line SF prism glass and a light (13.5 oz) but substantial feel in-hand. The price tag is big for such a small package, but the clarity is worth it. 8x21; brunton.com

Mountain Stalking

Bushnell Legend Ultra HD \$300

Rugged, comfortable in-hand, and damn near hurricane-proof, the Legend Ultra is a mountain man's binocular. The glasses are outfitted with Bushnell's ED Prime Glass, which offers impeccable light transmission and color resolution, allowing them to excel in low-light conditions. That, combined with their ample field of view for 10x binocs (340 feet at 1,000 yards), makes following moving game a cinch, which we found out for ourselves during an elk hunt in Colorado's San Juans. 10x42; bushnell.com

—RYAN KROGH

