

Our first GEAR talk feature.....

Base or mid?

Montane's Balance Shirt

£40, is either a base or a mid layer depending on which way around you wear it being reversible thanks to the Polartec two-faced fabric and its flat locked seams.

Using Polartec Classic Micro with Grid, the Balance shirt can be worn grid-to-skin for a warmth booster with the grid helping to trap more air next to the body for warmth should temperatures drop. In more temperate weather, the Balance Shirt can be worn fleece-side-in to capitalise on the fleece side of the fabric's enhanced wicking capabilities. Either way, the Balance Shirt is highly breathable, quick drying, durable and machine washable.

Details: www.montane.co.uk



Crux Torpedo 500 Crux bags

Specialist mountaineering brand Crux broke new ground last year with its first range of sleeping bags - designs that solve an enduring problem. Crux believes there is only one kind of sleeping bag that's ideal for technical mountain use - a down-filled bag (incomparable for warmth and light weight) with a completely waterproof shell to protect it.

Existing waterproof sleeping bag designs suffer a weight penalty and/or poor breathability. Water-resistant bags are reasonably breathable and fairly light, yet these fail to give real protection in the worst conditions - when it is really needed, of course.

The Torpedo sleeping bags (£330) avoid both problems by using eVent shell fabric claiming unrivalled breathability with complete waterproof protection. Crux uses bonding techniques allowing the use of weld baffles and seams throughout, giving improved breathability and reduced weight. The Torpedoes are filled with the best down commercially available - 'diamond grade' goose down from Poland.

Details: www.crux.uk.com



Led Lenser's H7 Head Torch

Lighten up

Reliable and durable, LED

Lenser torches are outstanding performers. The new Pro-Series has the brightest alkaline battery LED torches now available. Additional benefits of the line include the "Speed Focus System", premium quality CREE LED light chips as standard, 24 carat gold contacts (for optimum conductivity and anti-corrosion) and 2-Step dual switch light function (click once for low light, click again for maximum).

At only 117 gms, the H7 Head Torch is as comfortable as it is powerful - light output of 140 lumens - with the benefits of a fully adjustable strap, standard dimming facility for high-to-low beam, and 90 degree adjustable light directing the beam exactly where needed. A special feature of the new head torch is the "Advanced Focus System" which allows the instant change from long-distance to circular flood beam to suit any situation. SRP of the new H7 is £44.99 and a re-chargeable version (H7R) is also available at £54.99.

Details: www.ledlenser.co.uk



Rab's Generator Vest Core warmer

Rab's Generator Vest, £70, is filled PrimaLoft insulation, has a water repellent DWR outer and weighs a super-light 290g. It's compressible and if the fibre becomes wet it will retain its warmth. The patented, specially treated microfibres absorb virtually no moisture allowing PrimaLoft to retain more heat.

Details:

www.equipuk.com





Superfeet's Black DMP

For sensitive feet

Superfeet's Black DMP has been specifically developed for sensitive feet. Utilising Superfeet's

Dynamic Moulding Process, the new Black DMP, srp £44.95, has a unique 3 layer system that will provide comfort and therapeutic support for sensitive feet.

The top layer of the Black DMP is designed to decrease friction due to excessive motion and the multi-layered, self-moulding foam helps to distribute planter pressure and improve fit. The skegs under the heel of the 1/2 length stabiliser cap provide stability for the rear portion of the foot.

The DMP insole material will perform well in a wide range of situations from people who are standing in a static position for long periods of time to those who do a lot of walking and running.

Details: www.superfeet.com

Portable power Freeplay

offers a neat portable power solution with its Freecharge Zip. Charging this miniature device for just ten minutes from the mains provides the Freecharge Zip with enough power to fully charge a mobile phone. Even if you're too busy to wait ten minutes, a 60 seconds charge will supply your mobile with fifteen minutes' talk time.

Details: www.dalesman.biz



Helios GCS

Cook system

Jetboil's Group Cooking System (GCS), £115, brings greater capacity and

versatility to fast and efficient outdoor cooking. It features Jetboil's cooking pot with patent-pending FluxRing heat exchanger to double heat transfer efficiency and enable super-fast boil times.



Like the original Jetboil, the GCS is twice as fuel efficient as traditional camp cooking systems and will bring two cups of water to boil in about two minutes, or a litre in about four minutes. Its FluxRing heat exchanger allows the GCS to boil up to 50 cups (12 litres) of water from one micro-canister of Jetpower fuel.

The GCS integrates a burner with built-in igniter, pot, pot support, and stabiliser into one compact unit. The pot is made from hard-anodised aluminium for even heating and superior heat transfer and features a wide aperture for easy frying and simmering, an insulating Neoprene cosy and a snap on plastic lid for secure storage. All components, as well as fuel, stow within the pot. The GCS can also be used with traditional flat-bottomed cookware.

Details: www.lyon.co.uk



Wrap it up

UCO's Camera Wraps

from £12.50, are slim neoprene covers that attach to digital cameras via a fitted screw-in plate. Stretchy,

they fit like a glove and have quick Velcro closure; designed to accommodate cameras to 25mm thick (XL fits larger models).

Combo comes with fitted mini tripod.

Details: www.rosker.co.uk

Primus TiLite Set

Titanium on trek

Primus has extended its stove range with the incredibly lightweight TiLite Set, £90. Featuring an extremely lightweight, compact and powerful stove and pot, the TiLite Set is the ideal combination for adventures that require minimal weight and packing volume. The gas stove and 0.9-litre pot weigh only 198g, thanks to the versatile material Titanium - lightweight, extremely robust and easy to clean. The piezo ignition guarantees easy handling and the matching 0.9-

litre Titanium pot with its practical handle is big enough to feed two people on trek.

Details: www.rosker.co.uk

