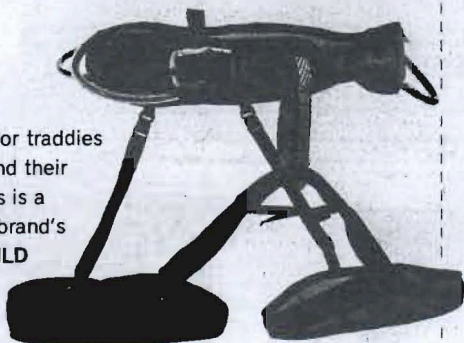


Nine sweet new accoutrements for those living lives less horizontal

Elite Seat

Wild Country has long made top-notch gear for traddies and sportsters alike, and their Syncro Ziplock harness is a classic. The UK-based brand's newest release, the **WILD COUNTRY ELITE ULTRALITE ZIPLOCK** (\$60, wildcountry.co.uk), is a move in the high-performance direction, and at 11oz is one of the lighter seats on the market. (Also new is the \$69, 15oz **SYNCRO ULTRALITE ZIPLOCK**, with adjustable leg loops.) With wide, mesh-encased strips of foam padding on the lower back (the new "Super-Ergo" belt) and inside the fixed leg loops, the Elite Ultralite was comfy on the hang but went unnoticed while climbing. The harness' four gear loops are canted to bring your draws to the fore, and the eponymous Ziplock buckle offers smooth one-handed adjustment. Finally, you have a Dyneema belay loop (with wear indicator), contributing to weight reduction and stripping away yet another excuse for letting go.

—Justin Roth

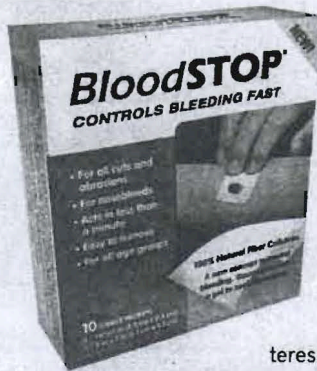


Message in a Bottle

While it's "OK" for Paris Hilton to parade around Malibu clutching a diamond-encrusted Evian bottle, eco-warriors and the hydration cognoscenti prefer classic metal. Exhibit A: the

SIGG HOT & COOL BOTTLE (\$27.99, mysigg.com), a sleek, classy, 16oz stainless-steel bottle that keeps hot beverages *caldo* for a good two hours, and cool drinks *frio* twice as long, thanks to double-wall vacuum insulation. SIGG, of Switzerland, has a century of metal-lurgy behind them, and it shows—they know that drinks taste better from metal, avoiding that dreaded plasticky aftertaste. (SIGG also lines their bottles with a taste-neutral nontoxic coating, baked into the walls, to protect against bacteria and mold.) What climbers also need to know is that these bottles are hyper-durable, and clip off well through the eye in the interchangeable lid.

—Matt Samet



There Won't Be Blood

"It looks like a bear cub mauled your shins..." my partner once commented after an ill-gnar approach. No one ever called me graceful, and I think I speak for the klutz community when I say we're all too familiar with products said to control or stop bleeding. So I was interested when a box of **LIFESCIENCE PLUS**

BLOODSTOP (\$14.99, lifescienceplus.com) appeared at the office. Good for rockrash, nosebleeds, shaving nicks, and more, BloodSTOP was a worthy addition to my first-aid kit. When applied to a wound, the BloodSTOP hemostatic cellulose gauze reacts with blood platelets and turns into a clear gel, creating a light pressure that seals and protects the wound's surface. Later, just add a little water to the gel and—*Bam!*—the BloodSTOP "bandage" dissolves. Nifty.

—Megan Parks

Maximum Glide

In Red Rock, Nevada, recently, I cleaned a left-leaning, bulgy sport route, taking a little swing after unclipping the final draw—the sound of the rope popping free from the rough rock stopped my breath. Afterward, I found no sign of wear on my **NEW ENGLAND ROPES MAXIM GLIDER 10.2** (\$208-257, newenglandropes.com). I was rocking the 70m, Endura Dry 2x, Bi-Pattern model. For years, I'd sought only the flossiest cords—I hated a fat, fuzzy rope dragging in my belay device during payout. Amazingly, the Glider feeds and clips like a slimmer line, bringing me back to the confidence wider ropes inspire. After dozens of trips to the crag, the sheath is still smooth and the handle still firm. And it's light, too, at 66g/m. In short, the Maxim Glider 10.2 is a sweet ride, brosephina.

—JR

Finn-icky Feet

I hate my feet. They're narrow, with collapsing arches, making the hunt for comfortable, well-fitting shoes a recurring nightmare. So it was with skepticism that I set out to test the **PATAGONIA WOMEN'S FINN** (\$100, patagonia.com). On approach trails, strolling through slushy downtown Boulder, or just standing around (for six hours—don't ask), I placed my Finns in many a tough situation and experienced continuous comfort and performance aplenty. Armed with Vibram Ecostep outsoles, lightweight mesh uppers, air-cushioned, compression-molded midsoles, a reinforced climbing-rubber toe, and an environmental merit badge (70 percent of the cork footbed, 30 percent of the Vibram outsole, and 100 percent of the dual-density insole board come from recycled materials), the Finn, like a good therapist, put an end to my (shoe-buying) nightmares. Thanks, foot-hugging

friendos.

—MP

