

field notes

The latest word from our testers



tough duffel

Mammut Cargon 60

There may be no piece of gear we abuse more than our luggage—but you'd never know it if you looked at our

Cargon. We hauled this duffel across the globe—from ski-mountaineering in British Columbia to trekking in the Alps—and it came back no worse for the wear. Credit the polyester

ballistic body fabric and ripstop threads, as well as the waterproof nylon bottom, which works like the bathtub floor of your tent—go ahead and set it down in a puddle. Three compartments keep Type-A packers happy. Nice touch: The handles are wide and anatomically shaped, so you can wear it as a backpack relatively comfortably. “With the two compression straps cinched, the 60-liter model fit in a plane’s overhead compartment,” says a tester. “And the two side handles are great for hefting it.” \$140; 2 lbs. 8 oz. (60L); 5 sizes, 40L-140L; mammut.ch

eco-friendly hardshell

Patagonia Cloud Ridge

No, you don't have to sacrifice performance to reduce impact. Case in point: this shell made with 100 percent recycled polyester. “It kept me dry in rain and sleet, and even heavy, wet snow didn't saturate the DWR coating,” says our tester. The three-layer H2No fabric also breathes better than average, prompting Patagonia to dispense with pit zips. After wearing the shell on numerous treks in Colorado's alpine country, our tester



said, “I found myself putting it on earlier—before rain began—and leaving it on longer after rain ended, which saved time on days with intermittent precip.” The hood fits over a climbing helmet, but our tester wished it had a bit more volume for greater freedom of movement. And the forearms are a little snug for layering in cold temps. \$249; 14 oz.; m's XS-XXL, w's XXS-XL; patagonia.com

soft baselayer

Mountain Hardwear MHW AC Long Sleeve Henley

How do we know when a shirt is a winner? When testers who have a closet full of them to choose from keep reaching for the same one. That's what



happened with this synthetic baselayer. “I first used it on a rainy fall backpacking trip on the Colorado Trail,” says a tester, “and then I kept using it on everything from trail runs in Boulder to dayhikes in Joshua Tree National Park. The soft interior feels more like cotton than standard-issue polyester, which can feel plasticky.” The perforated, woven construction keeps the shirt light and breathable. We wore it under a midlayer in cold temps, but by itself it was comfortable in the 70s. The fit is excellent—close but not binding. Nitpick: Snaps at the chest don't open the neck up as deeply

as some zippers. The women's version (\$80) has a hood. \$70; 3 oz.; men's S-XXL; mountainhardwear.com

ultracomfy bag

The North Face Hyper Kazoo

Everyone wants to sleep better in the backcountry, right? Then everyone will love the new Hyper Kazoo. Designers have eliminated the baffle seams by using a single piece of fabric, which saves weight and improves durability and comfort. “I sleep in my birthday suit as much as temperatures allow,” says



our over-sharing tester, “but I get annoyed by feeling seams against my skin. The Hyper Kazoo is totally smooth on the inside. I slept like a baby in New Mexico's Jemez Mountains.” The 800-fill down ensures the bag is both highly compressible (8 by 14 inches in the included stuffsack) and warm down to the 15°F rating. “I never felt a cold spot—even

when I slept outside in blowing snow on a 22°F night, conditions that would normally have me running for shelter,” says our tester, who praised the lofty, water-resistant ProDown for keeping him warm. Fit is classic mummy: efficiently snug, but not annoyingly tight. Ding: The hood drawstring was difficult to loosen. \$359; 1 lb. 15 oz.; 15°F; thenorthface.com