

# ROCK AND ICE

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BUILT BY CLIMBERS

## PHOTO ISSUE

No  
Posing  
(No Kidding)

Climbing's visual odyssey, and the crazy  
behind-the-lens stories that keep it real



training schedule ▶ REHAB  
▶ FIX aching shoulders  
▶ CLIMB without a knife ▶ LEARN  
▶ the use of a static rope

\$5.99 US \$7.95 CAN





- ▶ Minimalist tarp shelter.
- ▶ Pitches with ski poles, branches, etc.
- ▶ Weight: 6 ounces. Dimensions: 5' x 8'.
- ▶ Packs the size of a sandwich.

## BROOKS-RANGE Ultralite Solo Tarp

\$75 | [www.brooks-range.com](http://www.brooks-range.com) | ★★★★★

I RECENTLY CLIMBED the *Mountaineer's Route* on Mount Whitney and slept on the summit with a 6-ounce Solo Tarp to protect me from hail and rain. No typo, that's six ounces, buddy! During the ascent, my two friends, who kept cautious eyes on the gathering storm, and who carried an 8-pound mountaineering tent, ribbed me that I'd soon be groveling for a spot in their nylon hotel.

The storm hit and pounded us until midnight. Despite the freezing rain, my down bag and I stayed dry under the 5-by-8-foot tarp. As I listened to the patter of hailstones on the nylon, I asked myself if I would rather carry a

tent up a mountain, or a tarp that weighs as much as a T-shirt and packs to the size of a sandwich?

The Solo Tarp is an amazing shelter. Sixteen nylon loops let you erect it in a variety of configurations, and allow it to be pitched with ski poles or under a tree. I used it throughout the Sierra for winter mountaineering and as an add-on vestibule to a tent. But the Tarp's uses aren't limited to solo travel. On group trips in crappy weather the Tarp is a great morale booster. Instead of everyone staying in their tents, you can pitch the Tarp and use it to cook in, play cards and B.S. the tempest away.

—Larry Amkraut

## CAMP Orbit Twist Lock | \$12.95 | [www.camp-usa.com](http://www.camp-usa.com) | ★★★★★



THE PAST COUPLE OF YEARS, carabiner manufacturers have burned the midnight oil liposuctioning away precious grams. Now, CAMP has unleashed its latest creation, the Orbit Twist Lock, which, weighing 1.85 ounces, is the world's lightest twistlock carabiner (there are lighter screwlocks, such as the 1.46-ounce DMM Phantom.)

About 3.85 inches long and with a gate opening of .7 inches, the Orbit Twist Lock is a small carabiner. The Orbit isn't designed for large locking-carabiner applications, such as connecting to an anchor master point; rather, its domain is for "personal anchoring," such as attaching your daisies/slings to ascenders or clipping yourself in to an anchor. For those purposes, the small size isn't a bother and the carabiner is so lightweight you can carry multiples and, like silver dollars, never have enough of them. I also liked that, whether due to the carabiner's small frame, shape or light weight, the Orbit was less prone to flip and cross-load, making it my choice for use with a Grigri. The Orbit, however, didn't work well with wide-frame devices such as the Petzl Mini Traxion—the carabiner's acute contours caused it to bind when clipped through the device.

I've always been a twistlock fan, but am often frustrated by the multiple awkward gyrations some require to twist, push and pull them open. The Orbit's opening mechanism—rotate the collar and pull the gate back—is simple and I could even easily do it in gloves. However, the Orbit, like every twistlock carabiner I've used, can freeze up, becoming inoperable in icy conditions. New for 2010, the Orbit Twist Lock sports a "keylock" nose, a nifty bit of sleekness that prevents ropes, cordage and wires from snagging.

—DR

- ▶ Lightest twistlock carabiner.
- ▶ Small frame.
- ▶ 22 kN major axis; 7 kN minor axis; 8 kN gate open.
- ▶ Especially good for attaching ascenders and belay devices.