

130 KILLER DEALS!
(FOR UNDER \$100)

Outside SUMMER 2011

BUYER'S GUIDE

SUMMER'S BEST GEAR

325
TORTURE
TESTED
PRODUCTS

**HOW TO BUY
SMARTER**

Waterproof
Cameras

GPS
Watches

Barefoot
Running
Shoes

All-Terrain
Mountain
Bikes

Ultralight
Jackets

High-Def
Sunglasses

Go-Anywhere
Daypacks

Family-Friendly
Kayaks

2011
Outside
GEAR OF THE
YEAR



**The Only
Survival Kit
You Need**
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adventure tech

Not an especially high-tech dude? Check out this **waterproof mini camcorder**. It shoots in high-def, and the flip-out USB plug makes uploading a cinch.



1.



2.

1. V.I.O. POV.HD CAMERA SYSTEM \$600

THE SELL: The best point-of-view action cam with the widest field of view, for serious back-country filmmaking. **THE TEST:** This is one of the most versatile action cameras we've seen, built to handle powder skiing, mountain biking, skydiving (the mount is sturdy enough to withstand terminal velocity), and even underwater duty (up to a meter for 30 minutes). We loved the small, mountable camera head—which is separate from both the wearable control panel (for in-field editing)—and the simple remote (for easy record/stop). It runs on AA batteries and shoots 1080p or 720p video for a remarkable four-plus hours, and the memory can be expanded from 4GB to 32GB with a separate memory card. Learning the controls takes patience, but the brilliant resolution and crisp sound are worth the effort. **THE VERDICT:** An incredible tool for an aspiring pro filmmaker. vio-pov.com
FEATURES: 4.5
DURABILITY: 3.5

2. GE DV1 MINI CAMCORDER \$130

THE SELL: A pocket-size 1080p HD video camera with water and shock protection at an affordable price. **THE TEST:** The DV1 has solid tech specs, including 80 minutes of recording time on a single battery charge, a built-in USB connector, and the ability to shoot five-megapixel stills. What makes it stand out is its ruggedness: waterproof to 15 feet and shockproof enough to withstand kids who repeatedly dropped it on the trail. **THE VERDICT:** A tough performer at a more than reasonable price. Note: Kodak's new \$180 PlaySport, which promises higher picture quality, just missed our press date. general-imaging.com
FEATURES: 3
DURABILITY: 4

3. BRUNTON SOLARIS 4 USB SOLAR CHARGER \$252

THE SELL: Mobile solar power for your devices. **THE TEST:** This lightweight (6.3 ounce) panel charged our phones in two to four hours while tied to a moving backpack on an Arizona trail (though it didn't charge well in low-light conditions, as it claimed to). You can also pair it with a power-storage unit like Brunton's Inspire (\$72) to maintain a steady source of juice. Honorable mention: we also liked Tech4o's Pocket PowerPack (\$100; tech4o.com), which is slower but includes AA and AAA chargers. **THE VERDICT:** For serious expeditions wanting power for communication devices, this is a solid choice. bruntonoutdoor.com
FEATURES: 3
DURABILITY: 5

4. MOTOROLA BRUTE I680 CELL PHONE \$120 (with Sprint contract)

THE SELL: A feature-rich phone with military-spec toughness and two-way-radio capability. **THE TEST:** If you're hard on your gadgets, the Brute has your back. We stomped on it, threw it down a hill, and dunked it underwater for the max 30 minutes and it still worked. But what makes this phone stand out from its rivals are the call quality and the Nextel Direct Connect push-to-talk option, which turns it into a two-way radio, making it ideal for work crews, families, and search-and-rescue teams. **THE VERDICT:** Stands up to its name. motorola.com
FEATURES: 3
DURABILITY: 5

5. SUPERTOOTH DISCO SPEAKERS \$149

THE SELL: The most powerful completely wireless travel speaker on the market. **THE TEST:** This is the first battery-powered speaker we've really been able to get behind—and with its Bluetooth connectivity, its go-anywhere cred is warranted. The 14-inch-long Disco (hey, the company's French, so it can get away with that name) pumps a huge 28 watts of sound for three to ten hours, depending on the volume. We paired it with a laptop in the garage to play Arcade Fire while fixing our bike, then with a phone while waiting out a storm at a

car-camping site. The Bluetooth connection did get hiccuppy beyond ten feet, but the included cord serves as backup. **THE VERDICT:** Powerful, balanced sound in a portable unit, though at 2.5 pounds it's never going in our pack. supertooth.net
FEATURES: 4
DURABILITY: 2

6. YURBUDS IRONMAN PERFORMANCE RAISING EARPHONES \$50

THE SELL: Comfortable earbuds guaranteed not to fall out during workouts. **THE TEST:** Until now, the best earbuds we'd found for long runs had irritating behind-the-ear clips. But we were impressed by the Ironmans for both their sound and their stickiness. Even those with small ear canals found the soft silicone pliable enough to grip and hold, even in rain, and the audio is as good as anything we've tested at less than \$100. Comes with Yurbuds' signature customizable rubber earphone covers. **THE VERDICT:** Affordable sound for athletes—we'll take it. But with Ironman in the name, shouldn't they work for swimmers? yurbuds.com
FEATURES: 3
DURABILITY: 3.5