

GEAR GUIDE 2020

BACKPACKER

GET OUT MORE

TODAY'S
BEST GEAR

117
TOP
PICKS

PACKS

BOOTS

BAGS

TENTS

SHELLS

AND

MORE!



EDITORS'
CHOICE
AWARDS

HIKE IT, SAVE IT

UTAH'S BEARS EARS

This could get messy.



From featherweight hardshells to do-it-all softshells, here are the best products for staying dry on the move in the backcountry.

GEAR

GUIDE

BIG

FIVE



BEST FOR TRAIL RUNNING
THE NORTH FACE
SUMMIT L5
VRT FUTURELIGHT
PULLOVER

Review on next page



5

SHELLS | |

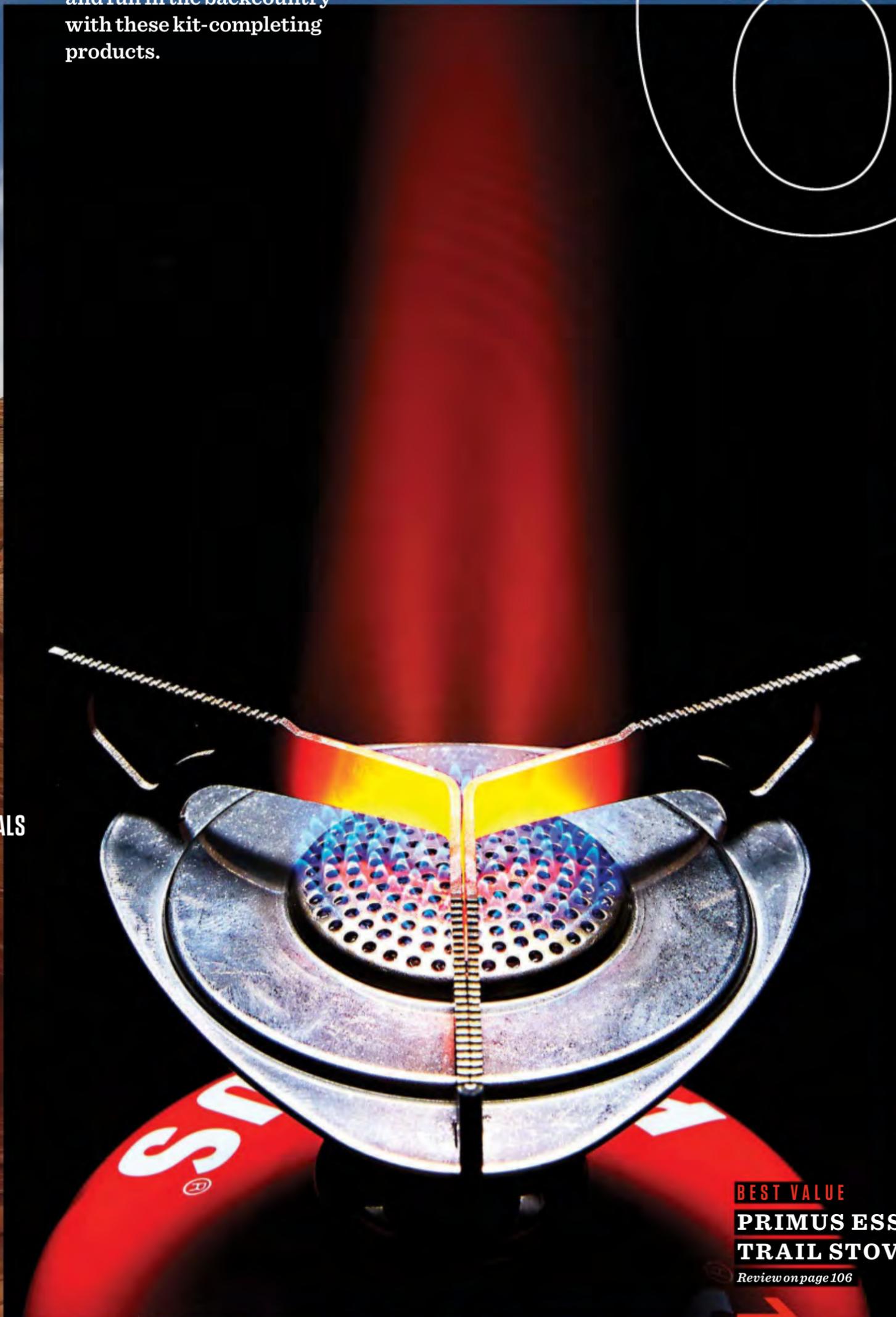
ESSENTIALS

—
Fire up your comfort, stoke, and fun in the backcountry with these kit-completing products.

GEAR

GUIDE

ESSENTIALS



BEST VALUE
PRIMUS ESSENTIAL
TRAIL STOVE

Review on page 106

BACKGROUND IMAGE: STEPHEN LEONARDI



WOMEN'S

A **VERSATILE FLEECE** **ARC'TERYX** **KYANITE LT** **HOODY**

If this hoodie had a dating profile it would read something like this: "Cute. Strong. Flexible. I'll keep you warm and snug on those cold, lonely nights." We swiped right, and are glad we did. Durability is a standout feature: We put in multiple climbing days wearing the Kyanite LT and it hasn't suffered any abrasions. Its polyester/elastane material

has a brushed fleece interior that had the best next-to-skin feel of any midlayer we tried this year. And even though the Kyanite LT is thin, it was warm enough for one tester to wear alone on a two-day ascent of Sky Pilot Mountain in Squamish, British Columbia in just-above-freezing conditions. The two zippered hand pockets are nice, but we found that they sagged when we put something as heavy as a cell phone or apple in them. Drawback: True love don't come cheap. \$149; 10.4 oz.; w's XS-XL, m's S-XXL

B **NO-BOUNCE BRA** **TITLE NINE RUN** **IT ALL STRAPPY** **SPORTS BRA**

The best bra is the one you forget you're wearing, and when we wanted support and comfort in the backcountry we went with this one. The Run It All's nylon/elastane material is perforated in high-sweat areas around the front and back, which had us feeling cooler without any sacrifice in performance. (A keyhole cutout in the back provides extra ventilation.) "After a 9-mile trail run on Colorado's Indian Peaks Traverse,

my bra was already dry after my 30 minute car ride home," one tester reports. Fit note: The Run It All is most supportive for A and B cups—Cs and Ds may want to look elsewhere. \$60; 2.5 oz. (34 A/B); 32-38 A/B

C **FASHION-FORWARD TANK** **MAMMUT** **CRASHIANO** **TOP**

Whether we were trail running, climbing, hiking, or hustling around town, if we were going to be sweating, we reached for this flowy tank top. The cut is both functional and flattering: It combines a front made from four-way stretch polyester that feels—and looks—like chiffon with a tightly woven mesh back and a keyhole cutout that provides superb ventilation. We were also impressed by the wrinkle-resistant fabric, which passed our "ball-it-then-wear-it" test with flying colors. And did we mention it looks great? "I wore this top to a job interview, then straight to a multipitch climb in Eldorado Canyon State Park afterward without changing," one Colorado tester says. "I crushed the climb and got the job. How many shirts can you trust to do that?" \$69; 2.8 oz. (w's M); w's XS-XL

D **RESILIENT LEGGINGS** **SHERPA** **ADVENTURE GEAR** **KALPANA** **HIKE TIGHT**

We love good trail tights, but not all leggings hold up in the backcountry. The Kalpana bucks that trend with a 76 percent nylon fabric that can take a beating: It stood up to off-trail exploration through grabby brush and sliding down rocks

in Bears Ears without snagging, and even after dozens of washes, these tights have yet to lose their shape. Almost as important as durability are functional pockets, and the Kalpana delivers on that end, too. Two zippered thigh pockets are each roomy enough for a smartphone, and the four way stretch fabric never restricted our movement. "While exploring Arch Canyon in Utah, my group decided to trail blaze up some loose, steep rocks. The tights made me feel as agile as Simone Biles, allowing me to high-step to stable footholds," one tester says. \$79; 12 oz. (w's M); w's XS-XXL

E **WARM-WEATHER BOTTOM** **MOUNTAIN** **EQUIPMENT** **DYNAMO SKORT**

Your softshell hiking pants and bike shorts had a love child, and the result is glorious. The cut of the stretchy Dynamo hits just above the knee, which is long enough for coverage during squatting or scrambling but short enough to give you free range of motion. While the built-in shorts of other skorts tend to ride up, causing dreaded thigh chafe, the ones in the Dynamo stay in place. "I'm never going back to shorts after wearing this skort on a trip to Missouri Lakes in Colorado's Holy Cross Wilderness," one tester says, "I felt unrestricted and protected trekking up snowfields, over two passes, and high-stepping over fallen trees in an avalanche-debris field." Testers also applauded the three generous pockets that can each hold a cell phone, lip balm, and energy bar. \$80; 5.3 oz. (10); 8-18