

Nine cool, new selections for the hot, cruel summer

Hour Power

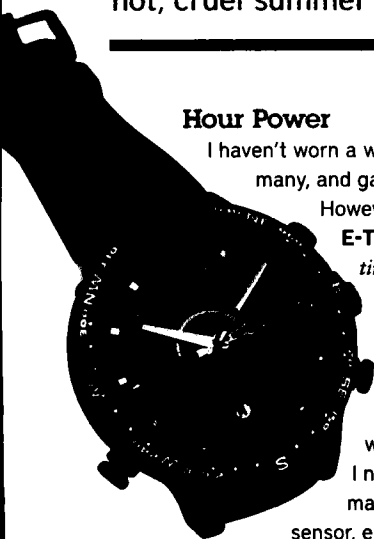
I haven't worn a watch in ages: I broke one too many, and gave up on the concept altogether.

However, the **TIMEX EXPEDITION E-TIDE TEMP COMPASS** (\$169.95, timex.com), has brought me

back into the fold. This burly, bling-y hunk of stainless steel has the oversize styling that's the latest rage, plus a slew of features—some of which I always wanted, others I didn't even know I needed. In the former category, mark the push-button temperature sensor, electronic compass, glow-in-the-

dark hands, and INDIGLO® nightlight. And in the latter, you have the tide tracker (when I take up surfing, I'm sure I'll appreciate it). So, go ahead—ask me the time, bub.

—Justin Roth



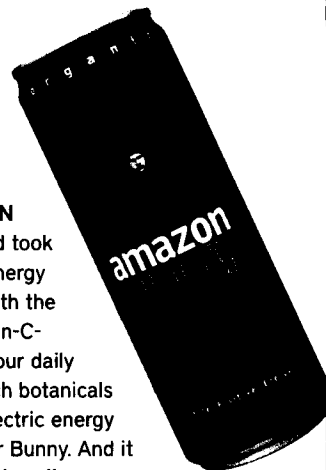
An Easy Descent

Woe betide the multi-pitch climber facing a long walk-off: she either lugs clunky approach boots up the wall or has to wear toe-hammering rock shoes on the way down. The new **FIVE TEN DAESCENT** (\$89.95, fiveten.com) is a low-profile, light (19oz for a pair of size 10.5) sticky-rubber shoe that solves the descent dilemma. I used them while Flatirons scramble-soloing and on the attendant long approaches/descents, finding a nice blend of light weight and breathability (think micro-fiber mesh upper) with rock-gripping performance (see the Stealth Mystique sole, which wraps over the toe box to form a climbing rand). The shoes also have a handy heel loop for harness clip-off and compress well for stowage in a mini-pack. —Matt Samet



Jungle Juice

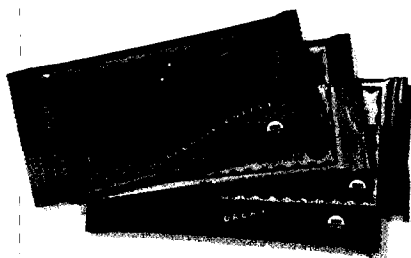
Three days into my Hueco trip, and even the nuclear-grade camp coffee wasn't enough to cut my hangover fuzz. Wishing I hadn't killed that bottle of Stoli before passing out in an ocotillo bush, I popped open a 12oz **SAMBAZON AMAZON ENERGY** (\$1.99, sambazon.com) and took a full swig of the deliciously sweet and fizzy "energy in a bottle." Sustainably produced and made with the immune-system-boosting açai berry, the vitamin-C-packed acerola berry (read: 1,000 percent of your daily recommended C dose), and several caffeine-rich botanicals (guarana and yerba maté, for example), this electric energy drink made me a veritable bouldering Energizer Bunny. And it tasted great, too. Bizzlin'.... —Leah Miller



Bumbler 4 Life

Hi, my name's Kristin, and I'm a bar-oholic. I eat three—OK, five—energy bars a day and have severe mood swings when I don't get my fix. But that doesn't mean I'll scarf any ol' mealy brick—I am a connoisseur. So when a case

of **BUMBLEBARS** (\$17-30 for 15 bars, depending on flavor; bumblebar.com) arrived, I quickly discovered the humble Bumbles are the Bordeaux of crag chow. Packed with nuts, seeds, and fruit, these bars deliver long-lasting energy, protein, essential fatty acids, and health-boosting antioxidants. (My favorite flavor? Chocolate Cherry.) The organic, gluten-free bars are also vegan and, despite the "Bumble" name, contain agave syrup, not honey. —Kristin Bjornsen



Royal Shorts

I'm not proud of my chicken legs, but pride takes a backseat to comfort on a 90 F-day. So I was happy to put the **ROYAL ROBBINS MEN'S DISCOVERY SHORTS** (\$50, royalrob-bins.com) through their paces on a recent scorcher. I'm not sure how passersby felt about my ghostly gams, but I cruised happily around the boulderfields in these sharp-looking shorts. The length was just my style, falling around the kneecap so I looked neither like a 1970s jogger nor an overgrown skate punk. And the slightly stretchy Nylon fabric allowed for unhindered highstepping. The shorts are also tough, light-weight, exceptionally soft—cotton-like, even—and easily weathered several butt-shuffle descents. Low-profile zippered pockets (good under a harness), a miniscule pack-down size, and wrinkle resistance make the Discoveries, available in Khaki and Shale, a staple for summer adventure. —JR

