

■ BRAND FOCUS Berghaus

Insulated gear comes to the fore for Autumn/Winter12 and the MtnHaus™ design and development team has delivered the goods with the latest advance in the use of hydrophobic down.

Berghaus enjoyed great success last year with the Mount Asgard Hybrid jacket the first to incorporate a combination of hydrophobic down and Primaloft One insulation. For this autumn, the MtnHaus team again focused on down and has introduced two new hydrophobic down products that are aimed at setting a new benchmark in insulation for extreme conditions and action. Hydrophobic down offers the natural benefits of down, such as superior warmth to weight ratio, compressibility and resilience, enhanced by an innovative water resistant treatment applied directly to the down. This down maintains more of its loft in damp conditions, takes up less water, and dries and recovers loft more quickly, leading to notably enhanced performance in damp conditions.

The Ramche jacket uses a three zone 'bodymapping' principle to ensure its 850 fill power hydrophobic goose down offers the best combination possible of thermo-regulation and flexibility of use. The insulation is all wrapped in highly wind resistant and water repellent Pertex Quantum GL. Clever pattern cutting and a set of essential features mean the

Mick Fowler trialling the Ramche jacket in the Himalaya



509g (size large) jacket is primed for extended use in the toughest conditions. The Ramche was designed with direct input from Berghaus climber Mick Fowler who, along with BMC chief executive Dave Turnbull, used a prototype on a successful recent Himalayan expedition. Ramche is complemented by the Ilam jacket which also employs bodymapping and with the Mount Asgard Hybrid completes Berghaus' Extrem down collection ever, supported by some high performance Primaloft One garments.

The Extrem range is all new and reaches new levels of technical performance, developed with insight and hands on input from world-class climbers and mountain guides. The Kangchenjunga (men's) and Mirgin (women's) are Berghaus' most adaptable high performance 3L Gore-Tex Pro jackets. Features include a patented hood with single pull, double adjustment system, and 3D venting through the main pockets, providing more effective core cooling than pit zips, while saving on weight. The Gore-Tex jackets (and the Oktang Bib Pant) are joined by men's and women's softshell jackets and pants, hydrophobic down jackets (as outlined above) and Primaloft jackets and half-zip tops.



Inspired by an ice climbing trip to the Italian Alps, the Extrem Caldera 35, available in men's and women's specific versions, challenges the accepted norm of mountaineering packs. 'Quick and efficient' is the mantra for a climbing sack that uses zip access to allow fast entry into the main bag, combined with a well thought through internal layout for the efficient storage and segregation of gear, and a good-sized lid pocket for items that are needed most often.

■ The North Face Polar Hooded Jacket £280

This Apex Design Award winner is a sleek, hybrid, body-mapped soft shell that combines the warmth of an insulated top, the moisture transport properties of fleece, and the protection of a soft shell. The body is made of new Polartec Power Shield High Loft² soft shell fabric that's both 25% warmer and 25% lighter thanks to a revolutionary new lamination technique. A new version of Polartec Thermal Pro is used in the sides, underarms, and hood to insulate without inhibiting breathability and moisture vapour transport. Unlike down or classic synthetic insulation, this version of Polartec Thermal Pro is highly stable, so The North Face was able to pair it with a much more open, breathable fabric on the inside to significantly improve moisture movement and eliminate the vapour barrier phenomenon of most insulation. The result is the warmest, lightest, most compressible soft shell on the market – www.uk.thenorthface.com



■ Aquapac

Extra protection for your electronic gear makes sense; Aquapac's phone case keeps its contents dry in pockets and in use

– www.aquapac.net.



■ Grangers

Grangers' unfortunately named 'Dirty Scrubber' sponge and cleaner pack offers a quick and easy way of sorting spills and stains on waterproofs and footwear for about £3 –

www.grangers.co.uk



■ Envirotrek's Clean Up campaign - one of the projects supported by the outdoor industry via EOCA

Outdoor industry supports conservation. 2012 marks a milestone in the development of the European Outdoor Conservation Association (EOCA) and its members, as it has confirmed raising its first €1 million in the six years since it was created - 100% of which has been put straight into conservation projects worldwide. Acting President of EOCA and Head of Keen EMEA, John Jansen said, *"This is a very important milestone to have reached in such a short space of time. A huge amount of money has been raised to put back into the environment on which we all depend. As a very tangible success for the outdoor industry, we should be proud to have been – and continue to be – part of it."* EOCA is also celebrating reaching huge numbers of outdoor consumers through this year's public vote. The public vote reached over 4 million consumers via print, online and social media with a massive total of 55,263 votes cast to help choose the projects to receive funding. Joint General Manager Tanya Bascombe said, *"To be able to put EOCA and its members in front of such a large number of people has been truly staggering. The enthusiasm with which people took part and spread the message was incredible and shows not only the commitment outdoor people have for protecting wild places, but also that they care what the outdoor industry is doing about it."* To find out more about EOCA, go to: www.outdoorconservation.eu



■ Terra Nova Quasar packs £160-£210

Terra Nova has added to its range of successful lightweight packs with three alpine and expedition rucksacks. The Quasar packs have been designed to offer the best combination of low weight, high strength and functionality on the market, appealing to the weight-conscious climber or mountaineer. The result is a weight saving of around 30% compared to similar products with each pack being carefully designed to include essential features whilst omitting unnecessary details. The impressive

minimum weights of the packs are 348g for the Quasar 30, 415g for the Quasar 45 and 436g for the Quasar 55. All the packs are made using Terra Nova's Ultra fabric to reduce weight while still offering high strength, with durable Matrix Cordura reinforcing key wear points. Some of the features include a removable main lid which allows the extendable main compartment to be loaded or unpacked more easily. The pack can be used minus the lid or with the mini lid to save weight. There are multiple gear attachment points for crampons, an ice axe and rope, removable belt pockets, internal hydration pockets and back protection – www.terra-nova.co.uk



■ Edelrid Puncture Cartridge Adapter £18

If you're headed abroad and planning on camping, chances are you are taking a stove with you. Though there are a number of options out there, single burner gas stoves remain one of the most popular. This is no problem while you're in the UK, where screw valve cartridges are readily available but, in many countries, finding screw valve gas cartridges can be a problem. On the other hand, Campingaz puncture-valve cartridges can be found virtually everywhere in Europe and beyond. Usually you are left with only one option, stow your trusty gas stove and invest in something that works with the local cartridge supply, practical but hardly ideal. Edelrid has a simple, practical and rather ingenious invention designed to make your favourite gas stove compatible with all puncture cartridges – the Puncture Cartridge Adapter. It's easy to use as all you have to do is fit the adapter on to the canister with the screw thread top, in the unscrewed position. Secure the adapter legs to the base of the canister using the rubber ring provided and then screw the top downwards until it safely pierces the canister. As long as the adapter remains in place the canister will be sealed. UK stockist details: 01539 733842, www.edelrid.de



All prices quoted are the manufacturers' 'suggested retail price'. You know the drill - online or store shopping should quickly reveal a wider range of options.