

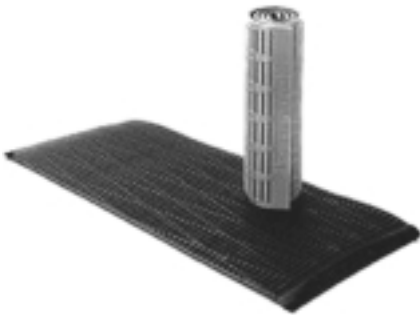
Ridge Rest 3/4 Sleeping Pad

For me, one of the pleasures of hiking or trail running is the ability to stop anywhere anytime and read a book or take a nap. With a light pad strapped to my daypack (I like the small Marmot Talus), that's always an option. I can recline on rocky ground, sit on wet moss, and generally treat the wild like a living room. The torso-length Ridge Rest rolls compactly and is plenty soft and warm enough to serve as all-night pad with my sleeping bag.

—SB

Therm-a-Rest Ridge Rest 3/4 Sleeping Pad

\$13
From, for example,
REI
www.rei.com, 800/426-4840



Tilley Hat

Often copied, never quite equaled, the Tilley Hat is the most all-purpose chapeau I know. Its broad brim keeps the sun or light rain off, the bit of foam in the flat crown pads the skull against light whacks and keeps the hat floating in water, and the double strap defeats all wind. (Use just the rear strap behind your head to hold the hat in all but strong winds; the front strap under the chin is effective but dorky looking.) The Canadian behind the Tilley line has generated a humorous but effective fetishism around his durable hats. With one or both side brims snapped up to the crown you get a rakish look which also stiffens the front brim against wind. The Tilley packs well and does last for many years; however, a lot of hot weather use will stain it incurably with sweat. You may not mind.

—SB

Tilley Hat
Tilley Endurables Inc.
\$50.00
www.tilley.com
800/363-8737



CamelBak Hydration Systems

The closest thing to the Still Suits worn by the Fremen desert people in Frank Herbert's Dune world, set 10,000 years in the future. You hydrate more often with these because you don't have to reach for anything; the containers can carry up to about two liters. Also they don't bang around on the outside of your pack; the new backpacks often build in pouches to accommodate them. They make insulated ones that don't freeze, which I use for snowboarding.

—Alexander Rose

Camelbak Classic

\$40
CamelBak Products, Inc.
1310 Redwood Way,
Suite 200,
Petaluma, CA 94954
800/767-8725,
707-792-9700
www.camelbak.com



Princeton Tec Matrix LED Headlamp

The new ultrabright LED-based lamps, like the ones in the Princeton Matrix headlamp, are quite amazing. While the light doesn't reach as far as an incandescent, it is a cool, high-contrast light that doesn't glare when you are reading in your tent or working on something close, and it doesn't have the hotspot incandescents do. (The Matrix also comes with an incandescent bulb if you do ever need the range.) The LED's main virtue: the light lasts for about forty hours on a set of two AA batteries!

—Alexander Rose



Princeton Tec Matrix LED Headlamp

\$50 list, \$40 street
From, for example, REI

Otterbox

Electronics and water don't mix well. Keeping digital gear dry around water is a tricky job made perfect by an Otterbox. Bright yellow, tough as concrete, lightweight, watertight as a submarine, and padded inside, an Otterbox will keep cameras, cell phones, Palms, navigation equipment, or wallets safe and dry through rapids, splashes, or 100 feet of water. They are indestructible.

—KK

Otterbox

Different sizes
9000 series,
3 x 3.75 x 7.5 inches
\$20
Otter Products
970/493-8446
www.otterbox.com

