

The Waking Dream

Couloir Editors' Clothing Picks

With the amount of high-quality, stylish, technical backcountry clothing and accessories springing up each season, each year it gets harder for us to review every new arrival. And we want to present clothing in a way that will help you with your buying decisions, but not sink you (or us) into the depths of boredom and despair. In order to avoid squashing the freeflowing thrill and anticipatory buzz of backcountry skiing and riding with endless technical jargon, we got selective. To narrow down the field we asked our editors—all passionate backcountry skiers and riders that have been immersed in the snowsports industry from years to decades—to prepare their dream outfit. Here's the assignment we gave them:

It starts out as a bad dream: You're buck-naked surrounded by swarms of snow industry people and product at the Outdoor Retailer trade show. The piercing fluorescent lights beat down on you, as you stand frozen beneath them. But the dream soon takes a turn for the better because as you look down into your clammy hand you realized you're clutching somebody else's platinum credit card. You need to outfit yourself for backcountry outings for the upcoming season, you need to be prepared for all conditions, and the bill won't be coming to you. So take a deep breath, swallow your pride, and start shopping.

From socks to sunglasses, insulation to underwear, coats to pants, and an optional luxury item to boot, here are our editors' picks:



..... Websites

Arc'teryx: www.arcteryx.com	Ibex: www.ibexwear.com
Beal: www.bealplanet.com	Isis: www.isisforwomen.com
Black Diamond: www.bdel.com	Lowe: lowealpine.tslsport.co.uk
Boeri: www.boeri.com	Mammut: www.mammut.ch
Briko: www.briko.com	Marmot: www.marmot.com
Arva: www.climbaxe.com	Moonstone: www.moonstone.com
Cloudveil: www.cloudveil.com	Mountain Hardwear: www.mountainhardwear.com
Columbia: www.columbia.com	Niterider: www.niterider.com
Dahlgren: www.dahlgrenfootwear.com	The North Face: www.thenorthface.com
Eider: www.eider-world.com	Ovo: www.ovousa.com
Eurosock: www.eurosock.com	Proderma: www.prodermaproducts.com
Feathered Friends: www.featheredfriends.com	REI: www.rei.com
Giro: www.giro.com	Smartwool: www.smartwool.com
Helly Hansen: www.hellyhansen.com	Smith: www.smithsports.com
Hind: www.hind.com	Swix: www.swixsport.com
Blowtorch Lighter: www.hippygear.com	Thorlo: www.thorlo.com
Hot Chillys: www.hotchillys.com	Wild Things: www.wildthingsgear.com

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John Atkinson

My clothing choices have long been based on versatility and durability. Layers need to work for several different tasks and conditions, because here in the East, the weather can change fast. We experience extremity-numbing chills and moist meltdowns, sometimes on the same day. Our tight chutes and trees are brutal on flimsy gear, so strong seams and bomber fabrics are essential. Warranty and customer service also hold weight, because even the most iron-clad gear wears out or rips at some point.



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A. MARMOT COLD STEEL JACKET \$475

Great durability with total coverage for any mix of rain, snow, and wind. The hood can be a little weird, but the protection is unparalleled.

B. MOUNTAIN HARDWEAR WINDSTOPPER TECH JACKET \$200

Perfect for climbing and insulation on colder days. Good fit, big venting zips and great blend of breathability and wind block.

C. PATAGONIA PRIMO PANTS, \$299

Everything I look for in pants: internal gaitors, full side zips, good mid-rift coverage and suspenders. Fit is comfortable and non-restricting even with pads. No shredding problems in the hobblebrush.

D. WILD THINGS EP HOODED JACKET \$175

The Hoody is a very simple functional insulation layer that packs up remarkably small and light. Comes in three weights of Primaloft. New Hampshire-based too.

E. MOUNTAIN HARDWEAR TRANSITION WINDSHIRT \$140

Great breathability on the way up and excellent wind protection for exposed ridges and transition times when non-windblock layers allow for too rapid of a cool down. Works in the widest range of conditions and often eliminates the need for extra layers.

F. MOUNTAIN HARDWEAR EXTEND FEATHERWEIGHT TIGHT \$38

Comfortable, excellent fit, durable and wicks very well. (NOT PICTURED)

G. BOERI KAMELEON \$90

Great for warmer weather and pure hiking days in most temps.

H. SMITH FUSE REGULATOR \$65-85

Good fog dissipation, clean fit with a helmet, and lots of peripheral vision.

I. MARMOT ULTIMATE SKI GLOVES \$150

For those days when you need complete coverage and warmth. Able to repeatedly punch through the tightest spruce thickets with nary a rip, this glove will last many seasons of cold weather abuse.

J. SMARTWOOL SKI MEDIUM \$17.95

They work and fit really well, plus they don't stink as bad as the synthetic options.

K. SMITH SLIDERS DISTRICT \$109

Excellent versatility and clarity. I've used them to protect my eyes in the darkest woods and brightest bowls, with just a quick lens change. Great for summer mountain biking in the green tunnel too.

L. NITERIDER CYCLONE HEADLIGHT \$459.95

The Cyclone has a super low burn bulb (60 hours reportedly) for skinning, in camp or at the car and the high beam is enough to get down some pretty challenging terrain. It is a safety tool and a way to get out after work.

Susan Schnier

As a kid I dreaded getting bundled up to go skiing in the Catskills. The air temperature was usually down in the single digits and by the time I put on my long underwear, turtleneck, sweater, and bulky men's CB jacket and pants, I was warm, but I could barely move. How could I expect to ski when I felt like Randy's little brother in *A Christmas Story*, "I can't put my arms down!" Fortunately I moved to warm, sunny California, companies started making performance clothing for women, and I began to earn my turns. Now I look for low-profile, bulk-free gear with pieces that keep me warm enough to venture out in the most vicious storm, but breathe well enough that I stay dry during climbs on those ubiquitous 50° bluebird days. If it bunches or rubs, if I can't put my arms down, bend my knees, or move my legs freely, it's not in my clothing quiver.



A. ISIS VENUS, \$220

Fleece lined with a waterproof nylon shell, the Venus is warm enough to wear in a storm but light enough for when the weather's clear. Hood stows away invisibly when not in use. A stylish, minimalist, all-purpose shell.

B. ARC'TERYX GAMMA MX, \$285

A true softshell, the Gamma MX acts like a second skin: you forget you have it on until it does something important, like keep your innards from getting wet or frostbitten. When temperatures at the base seem warm, but winds might be gusting at the summit, wearing the Gamma MX is a no-brainer. And it's stylish enough to wear around town—even the city folk were eyeing it.

C. ISIS VESTA PARKA, \$185

A new twist on the classic parka, the hip-length Vesta is named after the Goddess of Fire, and it's 650-fill down heats you up as soon as you put it on. Helmet compatible hood zips off when you don't need it.

D. MOONSTONE RIDGE LINE PANT, \$200

Completely waterproof, but soft and breathable with full-length ventilation zippers, these are the only pants in my winter wardrobe. Articulated knees and seat make for superior freedom of movement and a low-profile thigh cargo pocket stores the essentials.

E. IBEX SHAQ GUIDE SWEATER, \$120

I cycled through thin fleece pullovers for insulation for years, but the Shaq sweater is my new standard. Made from Merino wool, it is soft and sleek with great temperature regulation, and it's less bulky than the thinnest fleece. Off the hill or on, the Shaq is indispensable.

F. CLOUDVEIL RUN DON'T WALK BOXER, \$50 AND TANK, \$70

Another extremely versatile setup, I wear the boxer and tank alone on warm days and under my full-length base layers when it's really cold. Both pieces are extremely soft on the skin and form fitting for freedom of movement without any bulk. The tank uses a Polartec Wind Pro material in the chest panel for additional warmth and wind protection. If your butt gets colder than the rest of you, try the Boxer.

G. HOT CHILLY'S BIO-SILVER CREW, \$33 AND BOTTOM, \$33

Flat seams eliminate abrasions and give these mid-weight base layers a silky, low-bulk fit. The Bio-Silver fabric is designed to reduce odors and transport water vapor. (NOT PICTURED)

H. GIRO FUSE, \$149.99

A new variation on the trusty lightweight Giro.9 that got me hooked on helmets, the Fuse has everything the 9 does, with flick-of-a-switch ventilation control. Removable ear pads make this my all-season helmet.

I. SMITH ANTHEM REGULATOR, \$100

Discovering the Anthem Regulator was the highlight of my season. No longer did I have to suffer with an imperfect Raccoon tan and goggle frames that extended almost to my mouth. The Anthem Regulator is made for smaller adult faces! They provide good peripheral vision, come in style metallic colors with mirrored lenses, and they're helmet compatible.

J. BRIKO APEX, \$79

Super strong and light, these are perfect for enhancing definition during late-afternoon outings and they make great party glasses when the sun goes down.

K. MOUNTAIN HARDWEAR WOMEN'S EXPOSURE II GLOVE, \$95

Simple, durable, warm, and waterproof, these gloves keep my hands happy without burdening me with extra cuff material or fancy pulley doodads that get caught on everything.

L. EUROSOCKS SKI SUPREME, \$18

Targeted at women, Eurosocks have a sport-specific flower petal designs. OK, so who really cares about that, but the socks are warm and they fit perfectly, having been designed based on a woman's foot. (NOT PICTURED)

M. PRODERMA SKIN CARE PRODUCTS

A whole line of fast acting, non-greasy skin products that help counteract the sun and wind. From SPF 30 sunscreen, to daily-use facial moisturizer, to Windscreen, and Moonscreen, Proderma's got you covered night and day.



Craig Dostie

Function, versatility, and layering are at the heart of my clothing picks. Each piece has to work well in more than one condition, but usually depends upon another for the full effect. For instance, though I only use it occasionally, I always bring my Marmot DriClima windshirt. In conjunction with wool underwear and a Schoeller shell, it's enough to stay warm on a stormy ridge while waiting for friends to de-skin.

I still use my Lowe Alpine lobster-style gloves and Moonstone Sauvage bibs. They're no longer available, but are absolutely superior to what is. Eventually they will totally give out, but I'm confident that in the meantime some company will have the guts to try and sell such a fine design again. When that happens, if you love the design, whatever it is, jump on it and buy a spare.

A. MAMMUT CHAMP PANTS \$199

Breathable, durable, water-resistant Schoeller fabric with loops for suspenders, articulated knees, abrasion resistant cuff-patches, and zippers to expand or cinch down around your boot top with an elastic ankle cuff.

B. CLOUDVEIL SERENDIPITY JACKET \$220

Two Napoleon pockets large enough to stuff fat climbing skins in, Velcro cuffs, a solid zipper, and breathable, durable, water-resistant Schoeller fabric.

C. MARMOT DRICLIME WINDSHIRT \$100

A lightweight, low volume, wind resistant layer of solid warmth that is ALWAYS with me—biking, hiking, skiing, sailing—in the pack or on my back.

D. IBEX GLACIER VEST \$130

A solid torso toaster. Because it's wool, it's warm when wet and cool when it's hot.

E. REI SUNGLASS FRAMES \$22.95

Glacier side shields are key. Plus they're cheap to offset cost of prescription lenses and easy to obtain.

F. GATOR NEOPRENE SOCKS \$27.95

Super toasty with a smooth liner that practically eliminates blisters. Downside: they're stinky. (NOT PICTURED)

G. COTTON SWEATBAND \$2.95

Cheap and cotton is super absorbent, so I don't get sweat in my eyes when skiing. (NOT PICTURED)

H. BRIKO CROSSOVER HELMET \$89

First helmet I ever tried that fit and I didn't overheat in

I. SMITH CARIBOO TURBO GOGGLES \$198.95

The only goggles that can defog themselves once fogged. Plus AAA batteries are good "spares" for a beacon.

J. MOONSTONE SAUVAGE BIBS \$N/A

They have thigh pockets with a full-length side zip, a full drop seat for "duty under pressure," and an elastic ankle cuff (no annoying internal gaiters). They're lightweight and fairly water resistant Gore-Tex for storm days. (NOT PICTURED)

K. SMARTWOOL POCKET GLOVES \$42.95

Wool liners are warm when wet and the Gore-Tex shell is highly water resistant on storm days.

L. LOWE LOBSTER GLOVES \$N/A

Warm as mittens with index-to-thumb dexterity. I replaced the fleece liners with Marmot's DriClima/Primaloft liners. The two-layer mitten system is super warm in sub-zero conditions. (NOT PICTURED)

M. SMARTWOOL HIKING SOCKS \$15.95

Wool has a great comfort range for days I don't need Neoprene VB socks.

N. MAMMUT KULA UNDERWEAR KULA PULL \$65 KULA TIGHTS \$59

Nylon fabric is cool for warm days when temperature regulation is predominantly via wicking. (NOT PICTURED)

O. FULL BRIM HAT \$4.95

Protects ears on sunny spring tours.

P. MARMOT MINIMA JACKET \$250

Gore-Tex with a hood for when it's puking wet.



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Peter Kray

I was happily shocked this season by the universal appeal of all the styles and fabrics being used in today's outdoor gear. Super lightweight, super simple, and super cool to wear. With testing beginning in late winter to spring, several of these "winter-specific" items were still being used throughout the summer and especially into the fall as my go-to alpine and travel gear.

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A. NORTH FACE AMA DABLAM STRETCH INFUSION, \$399

Quiet and well constructed with easy access, well-protected chest pockets, a hood, and the bomber wetproof properties of Gore-Tex XCR and 3-way stretch.

B. MAMMUT'S CASTOR JACKET, \$365

A Schoeller Dynamic DRYtech and Schoeller Keprotec mix is a warm, breathable, and damn good-looking softshell. Well-fit and well-designed with precise seaming and "hand" (i.e., touch), it hasn't shown any sign of the stitching failure or excessive pilling I found in the softshells I've tried before.

C. SMARTWOOL MEN'S VERSA CREW, \$69.95

A low profile Merino wool base layer that's still going everywhere from the slopes to watch sunsets to the grocery store. A comfy, good-looking piece that's also available in a Zip-T for easy use and care.

D. BRIKO RIFF, \$89

Available with a proprietary Thrama Plus Lens, the glasses had an unbelievable clarity in bright and cloudy situations. I was also impressed with the lightweight feel. You'll have to ask my wife for all the other beta on these babies as she appropriated them for everything from running to climbing as soon as they came in the door.

E. ARC'TERYX THETA SK PANT, \$350, \$360 w/ZIP

A truly bomber-style 25-ounce bib built with abrasion-resistant Gore-Tex XCR and durable Schoeller Keprotec in the instep. They are so easy to move in that I really did forget I was wearing them when I went to the bar.

F. BRIKO'S ICARUS, \$110

Great fit and still performing great for me with a wide field of vision, excellent wind and light protection and nothing more than an adjustment of the strap right from the store.

G. SMARTWOOL MOUNTAINEER GLOVE, \$110

Waterproof Graflex leather palm, abrasion pads, articulated G.I. Joe grip, long cuff, and removable Smartwool liner, these are adjustable and durable enough for any kind of weather.

H. BOERI SILVER STEEZ, \$109.95

The Steez gives me the kind of ventilation and low-profile protection that has made crossing over from the hope-and-pray protection of a wool hat that much easier.

I. BLOWTORCH LIGHTER \$6-18

I don't go anywhere without my Blowtorch, style lighter, because you never know out there—remember: Always be prepared.

Matt Samelson

I grew up skiing in Colorado at elevations that typically required five numbers to be descriptive. I was always bundled up and always cold. So when I look for clothes, I'm looking for the exact opposite—warm and low profile. I ski the backcountry and at resorts in basically the same clothing, so they need to function at both activities. While I live in California, I still ski Colorado several times a year, so I search for clothes that can cope with a wide variety of temperatures (0-40°F) and climate (sleety rain to dry snow).

A. EIDER PREMIUM \$518

Six consecutive days of wet, coastal British Columbia snow and not once did I notice the elements creeping through my jacket. Windproof, taped zippers, storm hood, adjustable powder skirt and Gore-tex XCR Stretch 3 material. Shreds the "It's too wet to ski today," excuse.

B. MARMOT QUANTUM \$270

I wore the Quantum everywhere—backcountry skiing in California, lift-served in Utah, surf trip/birthday party in Baja. I wore it to the bars. I even wore, gasp, a soft shell jacket in the rain. It has a hood; I stayed dry. The only place the Quantum hasn't been is inside a washing machine. But I bet it does great there as well.

C. FEATHERED FRIENDS HYPERION \$175-195

Efficient and lightweight, within seconds of freeing the jacket from its Nalgene-sized stuff sack, I felt warmer. The jacket was comfortable and fit nicely around the waist and wrist, and had a wind-proofed zipper. Made from your choice of material: EPIC by Nextec, eVent or Quantum.

D. CLOUDVEIL ICE FLOE BIB \$295

Do soft shell pants stretch? Yes they do. Are soft shell pants stretch pants? Definitely not, and here's why: versatility, breathability and improved water resistance. I wore the Ice Floe through the Sierra spring and Colorado summer, and the pant breathed and moved exceptionally well.

E. CLOUDVEIL ZERO G GLOVE \$80

Supple, strong, and warm, they easily passed the most grueling dexterity test—removing money from the wallet because it's too cold to consider taking your gloves off.

F. OVO ALPHA \$85

Lightweight with good airflow and the added bonus of a removable halo liner. Lined with temperature regulating Coolmax, the Alpha keeps you cool even when you smack your head.

G. DALHGREN SKIING SOCK \$20

Most of my socks have holes; this sock has rings. Initially, skeptical of "wicking rings," one tour made me a believer. A blend of merino wool and alpaca rings actually pulls moisture up keeping your foot drier and warmer.

H. SMITH SPAWN \$95

Owning a pair of Smith's in a mountain town is like owning a dog: Almost everybody has one. The Spawn conforms to my face allowing me to ski without crying.

I. ARVA LIFE BIP \$99.95

The BIP emits a signal compatible with 457kHz transceivers. The idea is to slap the BIP on something that doesn't have opposable thumbs—your dog, your backpack, etc. Or say you're not very good with directions; chuck the BIP into your tent before wandering off for a day of skiing.

J. HELLY HANSEN LIFA TOP \$50, BOTTOM \$45

Base layers need to serve three purposes: keep me warm and keep me dry. Helly Hansen's new Hybrid LIFA does it using merino wool and polypropylene to core areas warm, and a lightweight fabric under your arms and along your sides to move moisture. It's available in four different weights for different activities.



Lou Dawson

I'm known for my color mismatches, ruffled demeanor, and lack of film appeal. Warren Miller has never called me, but I watch his movies for style tips. I like layers that allow me to move freely, but I don't like pants so loose that the cuffs flap me in the face. Since giving up 1960s wool, I've been on a quest to find outfits that keep me as dry and comfortable. Soft shells come close, and my goal now is to find the best lightweight hard shell to compliment my softie. I also like modifying things—latest was cutting the sleeves off my Mountain Hardware no-stink base layer to make a sleeveless piece. More than four pockets in a jacket challenges my organizational skills (two is best), and everything should fit in a fairly small pack.



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A. MARMOT ORACLE, \$150

A minimalist hard shell for wear over a soft shell, the Oracle won me over with its stowable hood.

B. NORTH FACE SUMMIT SERIES CLIMB FLIGHT INFUSION, \$299

Excellent full-condition protection

C. CLOUDVEIL SERENDIPITY JACKET, \$220

With huge Napoleon pockets and performance fabric, Cloudveil's Serendipity is my soft shell jacket pick.

D. MARMOT FLASH SWEATER, \$148.95

My secret weapon for all seasons, this fiberfill jacket is lighter and warmer than fleece.

E. SWIX 10TH MOUNTAIN HUTS WOOL STOCKING CAP, \$26

I use a thin generic stocking cap for the walk up and keep a silk balaclava buried in my pack for times when exposed skin is not good. (NOT PICTURED)

F. MARMOT ATV GUIDE PANTS, \$150

Light and breathable for spring jaunts. (NOT PICTURED)

G. MARMOT LIQUID STEEL PANTS, \$250

These minimalist pants get stowed in my springtime rucksack.

H. NORTH FACE AMA DABLAM STRETCH INFUSION PANTS, \$349

This stretchy and comfortable jacket does duty as my midwinter hard shell pant.

I. MOUNTAIN HARDWEAR, EXTEND ZIP-T, \$60

For colder trips I picked a Mountain Hardware Extend "no stink" base layer for my torso. (NOT PICTURED)

J. HIND MUNICH PANT, \$59.95

On cold days I wear these under my shell pants. (NOT PICTURED)

K. COLUMBIA SILVER RIDGE SHIRT, \$40

Great for lightweight sun protection.

L. GIRO.9 HELMET, \$109.99

I'm sticking with my tried and true Giro Nine helmet—comfortable and oh so light.

M. SCOTT MESSENGER GOGGLES, \$50

The Messenger is built in the "moto racer" style that allows better peripheral vision.

N. THORLO SKI LIGHT SOCKS, \$14.99

Wear well and add warmth with their blend of wool and silk. (NOT PICTURED)

O. BLACK DIAMOND GUIDE GLOVES, \$149.50

Brawny Black Diamond Guide gloves are great for full-conditions.

P. CLOUDVEIL TROLLER, \$65

My day-to-day digit wrap. (NOT PICTURED)

Q. BEAL 30-METER RANDO ROPE, \$57.50

I replaced my ratty old cord with a strong new 8 mm Beal Rando rope. (NOT PICTURED)



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Susie Sutphin

I always have more gear in my pack than anyone else; if you forgot something, I can usually provide. Not to say I pack with reckless abandon but I have my bases covered and continually test gear with the goal of paring down my backcountry essentials to the minimum.

I hike in a beanie and sunglasses and descend with a helmet and goggles. My hands get hot so I need a light pair for climbing and a burly pair for skiing. Though my transition from skinning to skiing is complicated, it's surprisingly swift.

I've been caught enough times without a down jacket for insulation so I always bring one. My shell is rolled and stored at the bottom of my pack until the descent. I go back and forth between a soft shell and a fleece as my mid-layer, sometimes bringing both for the nasty. Base layers and socks are simple, they have to fit, not sag or bag and keep me dry when it is warm and warm when it is cold. And if you haven't guessed from my style and color choices, functional can be fashionable.

A. PATAGONIA DIMENSION JACKET \$240

The Dimension Jacket is a part of the Regulator system—designed for the 80% of the time you use it most. Highly breathable but also highly water resistant, there's no soggy jacket liner at the end of the day. One simple chest pocket and two hand pockets provide simple lines and minimalist low bulk.

B. EIDER PYRAMIS GORE-TEX PANTS \$398

I received a compliment on these pants every time I wore them. They fit perfectly. I loved their articulated knees and thigh pocket. Waterproof side zippers cut down on bulk of a storm flap and their high waist gave them the protection of a bib without overheating.

C. WILD ROSES ONYX ROSE JACKET \$190

With the functional properties of a soft shell and the extended breathability of fleece side panels, this soft shell made a believer out of me. Most soft shells aren't breathable enough to climb in and just a fleece can be too breezy.

D. WILD ROSES LOGAN ROSE PULLOVER \$100

A nice high collar keeps the wind out and its slim, contoured fit made it nice to wear for beers afterward.

E. SIERRA DESIGNS SHANGRI-LA JACKET \$149

I always bring a down jacket for an emergency layer or toasty transitions at the summit but it can be a drag to lug a bulky down sweater to the top. The Shangri-la is lightweight with 650 Powerfill goose down so it packs tight. Fleece side panels and a contoured fit layer nicely under a shell.

F. DUOFOLD VARITHERM MIDWEIGHT 360 STRETCH BASE LAYERS

I've tried a lot of base layers and tried and true Duofold still won my vote. A perfect mid-weight for all conditions, it wicked moisture away so I stayed dry. They held their shape and bounced back without being restrictive and conformed to the body, wrapping me in snugly comfort. (NOT PICTURED)

G. BLACK DIAMOND STRATOS \$99.50

Bottom line: I want dry hands. So my gloves have to be waterproof and have a gauntlet to keep the snow out. The Stratos is the ultimate in waterproof design but allows for dexterity with their four-way stretch fingers. The beefy insulated liner is reserved for really cold days so I usually use a thin liner.

H. BOERI KAMELEON \$90

Boeri fits my head and that's most important. Fit aside, the Kameleon is one of the lightest helmets on the market—important for the backcountry. The removable earpieces were simple and they use a groovy Velcro that doesn't stick to everything.

I. JYTTE \$30

Made of durable worsted wool, they are warm and breathable not to mention good looking. The best part: Jytte is very ecologically aware. All scraps gets recycled, from making stuffed animals to mittens.

J. SMITH EMPIRE SLIDERS \$99

I wear contacts, so I need a sunglasses with good wrap-around protection to keep the wind out. The Empire's wrap securely without being obnoxious. Four lenses to choose from, snazzy colors, and a great warranty too.

K. BRIDGEDALE WOMEN'S SKI SOCKS \$17.95

Garmont USA knew what they were doing when they took over distribution for Bridgedale. These are damn good socks. They're comfortable and maintain their shape after days of use. (NOT PICTURED)

L. ARC'TERYX KNEECAPS \$40

Look no further. These are the end-all and be-all for knee-pads. Their thermo-molded construction resembles that found in pack design. The result is a lightweight, pliable, and articulated design that is contoured to the shape of your knee. Simple flick locks keep the straps from slipping.

