

ADVENTURE  
ISSUE  
60

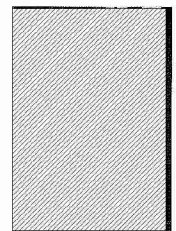


THE ESSENTIALS

## COVET Speed Boat

Carbon fiber has already revolutionized the construction of everything from bicycles and racing sculls to guitars and golf clubs. Now playboats get their turn. The 20-pound Project 54Cx kayak, from Wave Sport, weighs a third less than other freestyle boats, meaning better glide, effortless maneuvers, and huge flips on standing waves. And compared with similarly shaped plastic boats, which are softer and thus have more drag in the river, the 54Cx's stiff carbon shell planes through the water dramatically faster. So fast, in fact, that it allowed designers to increase the rocker—the arc from bow to stern—to allow for easier aerials. No, it's not designed for river running, but its Kevlar and fiberglass layers will shield against the occasional rock shot in the park. And while other river rats may lust after this slick-looking trickster, they'll never be able to catch you. \$2,500; wavesport.com —RYAN STUART

OUTSIDEONLINE.COM 71

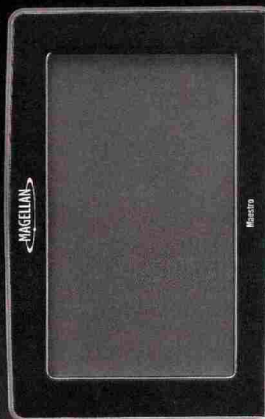


Page 1 of 2

## THE ESSENTIALS

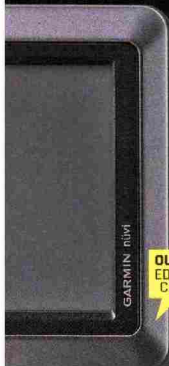
### LITTLE HELPER

HIGHGEAR'S **ATFB** gives quick, precise altitude, temperature, and compass readings, and features a barometer, stopwatch, and vertical-feet counter. Better yet, at 1.5 ounces, the tough, water-resistant unit will dangle from your pack like so many feathers. \$170; highgear.com



### DOES IT ALL

After it helps you make it to the trailhead, **GARMIN'S NUVI 500** detaches from your dash and joins you on the trek. With both street and topo maps, this waterproof world traveler (with extras like a currency converter) offers four modes: drive, hike, bike, and boat. \$400; garmin.com



OUTSIDE EDITORS' CHOICE

### ONBOARD COMPUTER

A road-tripper's dream device, the **MAGELLAN MAESTRO 4350** nav system has six million pre-programmed destinations, onboard AAA reviews, and pinpoint directions, accessed through its fast OneTouch route finder, that will guide you into any strange city. Then, once unplugged, it will accompany you on foot. \$400; magellangps.com

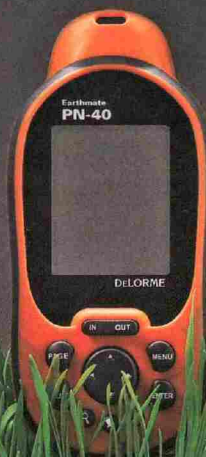


### GPS 101

No, it's not for serious trailblazers. But **BUSHNELL'S** simple **BACKTRACK** GPS/compass can help you mark up to three waypoints and navigate your way back to them. And at this price, it makes quick off-piste forays more affordable. \$70; bushnell.com

### SPEED MACHINE

**DELORME'S** **EARTHMATE PN-40** has access to the same USGS topo maps and hi-res aerial photos that made its predecessor, the PN-20, a favorite among hardcore backcountry users and GPS geeks. But its new dual processor crunches all that data much faster. \$400; delorme.com



## NAVIGATION

### LOCATION IS EVERYTHING

When you're charting a new course, these gadgets will keep you on track. BY WILL PALMER