

Gear of the Year

We Test and Pick the Best New Rifles, Shotguns, Bows, Optics, ATVs p. 84

FIELD & STREAM



THE WORLD'S LEADING OUTDOOR MAGAZINE // SEPTEMBER 2008



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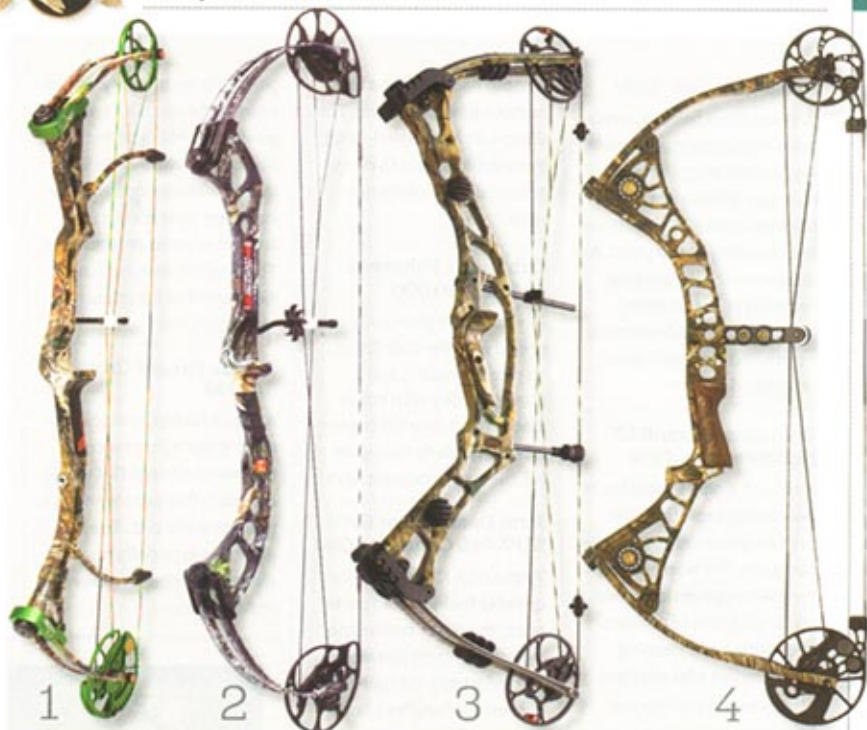


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Best of the Best III Testers' Picks



BOWS by Scott Bestul

1: BEST VALUE Bear Truth 2 \$649

The Truth won Best Value last year, and enough improvements (Dual Arc string suppressors, Winner's Choice string) let it retain the title despite a \$100 price jump. • beararcheryproducts.com

2: PSE X-Force Dream Season HF \$850

Easily the fastest bow we tested, the Dream Season has a solid back wall and good balance. On the downside, its draw cycle is rough and the noise level is pretty high. • pse-archery.com

3: Hoyt Katera \$849

Not only is the Katera the second-fastest bow we tested, but it is also pleasant to draw and shoot. That's a difficult combination to achieve. Its biggest drawback is its weight. • hoyt.com

4: Mathews DXT \$859

Had BowTech's The General slipped up in any category, this would have won Best of the Best—it was that close. Every tester appreciated the DXT's smooth draw, balance, and speed. • mathewsinc.com

Rocky S2V 200 GT S \$140

Based on the S2V military boots, these camo S2Vs come with Scent-Lok, which bowhunters in particular should appreciate. Ten inches tall, with crêpe soles and Gore-Tex exteriors, the boots kept my feet dry and were extremely comfortable, thanks to orthotic insoles. • rockyboots.com

Wolverine Harper Low \$125

These low-cut uninsulated boots weigh only 2 pounds 8 ounces per pair. Exoskeletons protect the outer waterproof

nylon fabric. The inside linings displace moisture effectively. The soles, which have fiberglass shanks, are particularly sticky on logs and tree bark. • wolverine.com

CLOTHING by Keith McCafferty

Cabela's Silent Stalk Fleece Series Parka and Pants \$200, \$180

Cabela's touts this series for 30- or 40-degree temps, but the company may be a little too modest here. With waterproof breathable linings, pit zips, and midhigh zippers, this is clothing for active hunters in genuinely cold weather. • cabelas.com

Filson Women's Tin Cloth Field Jacket \$270

Filson's Field Jacket is heavy and stiff until you wear it a few bird seasons; then it's still heavy and only a little less stiff, but somehow more comfortable. This is a certifiable classic, and now women have a cut just for them. • filson.com

Medalist Cheyenne Microfiber Women's Shirt and Pant \$70 each

Cheyenne apparel not only fits extremely well but is moisture wicking, breathable, and quick drying—all that, plus it incorporates scent-eliminating technology. • medalist.com