

TEST CENTRE

ENDURANCE JUNKIE HOT ICE SPORTWOOL TRI-SUIT

£120.00 www.endurance-junkie.com

Endurance Junkie's Hot Ice model features a completely white back panel to reflect heat. The shorts are a compressive Lycra-based fabric and the top is Merino-based Sportwool, which is comfy and quick drying. Covering your body in the heat may seem counterintuitive, but will make sense if you've ever been burnt riding the Queen K. The thermal qualities of Sportwool also make this a fantastic choice for chilly duathlons and early season tris. However, as it's designed to go under a wetsuit, don't expect exceptional pool performance. Where the Hot Ice really excels is in all-day comfort. It performed brilliantly in the recent 10hr Scotland Coast to Coast adventure race [which our tester won] with the chamois perfect on the bike and not chafing on the run. The double hip/leg pockets are ideal for gels and bars, and a long front zip makes venting easy. The only criticism is that the all-white short panels in the rear leave little to the imagination, especially when wet! **ABI**

VERDICT

Innovative tri-suit that performs superbly in open-water events

Triathlon

91%



BROOKS PURECONNECT

£90.00 www.brookspureproject.co.uk

Brooks is a latecomer to the minimalist barefoot run brigade. However, its new PureProject range proves it hasn't been sitting around idly. This set of lightweight and high-feel shoes aims to inspire a more natural run gait. Dip into the PureConnect and, we hate to say it, the moulded fit really does make you feel connected. When combined with the space-age-style thin outer lay-up and the light outsole, the whole shoe feels great. It's extremely flexible and soft but with surprisingly supportive cushioning. With its PureConnect, Brooks has managed to harness the lightweight freedom of a race shoe, while removing that 'edgy' feeling. It does have a stiff, narrow toe box, a couple of hotspots behind the thin tongue and grip that's slightly below par, but these issues are so minor that they can almost be overlooked. If you have 'normal' sized toes and want a very comfortable, relaxing shoe, this is a superb choice. **JS**

VERDICT

A solid performer without that unsettling race shoe 'edginess'

Triathlon

85%



NIKE PRO COMBAT HYPERWARM SHIELD MOCK

£36.00 www.store.nike.com

Nike need little introduction, and you can rest assured that a lot of time and research has gone into creating this compression base layer. The top fits closely to the size advertised and features flatlock stitching on the seams, which are positioned away from areas liable to chafe. The fabric is capable of four-way stretch for maximum mobility, and it also harnesses Nike's Dri-FIT technology, which regulates body temperature by removing sweat swiftly and allowing it to evaporate. The arms are covered in Nike's own 'Durable Water Repellent' material to protect you from wind and rain, and a high neck helps it sit well beneath other garments but could irritate some athletes. Overall, it's impressive – you get a lot of top without paying top dollar. **ABu**

VERDICT

High performing base layer at a value-for-money price

Triathlon

86%

