

Sunglasses

Light Sabers

This year's biggest news? You've never looked so good rolling off the trail (or slope or river) and into town. Most of the sunglasses gathered here unite the once vehemently opposed factions of sport and style in cool new ways, so you can do everything under the sun without fear. Equally nice: These days, polarized and/or photochromic lenses are de rigueur options—and just two great pick-and-choose features in the ever more customizable land of shades. **BY MIKE STEERE**



LEARNING CURVE
Sport-specific performance in sunglasses comes down to tint, which should filter enough of the right kind of light to reduce brightness and eyestrain without filtering out what you actually need to see to do your thing. (Whereas tints filter light, reflective coatings repel their color wavelength, so for fly-fishing in the Caribbean, say, Costa del Mar's blue mirror is ideal.) Here's the lowdown on what lens colors work best in which environments. **Yellow:** Increases visual acuity in low-light conditions. Best for: road and trail. **Rose or violet:** Makes details pop when light is flat, especially against blue backgrounds. Best for: water and snow. **Gray or green-gray:** Cuts glare, preserves natural colors. Best for: water and road. **Copper, brown, or amber:** Universal tints that improve depth perception, cut glare on sunny to partly cloudy days, and minimize eyestrain brought on by haze. Best for: road, trail, and water.

Rudy Project Zyon Sailing \$250 rudyprojectusa.com

1. Rudy has taken LCD-obscuring polarization down just four notches, to 96 percent. It's enough to kill glare but also let you see the screen on your iPod, phone, etc. Developed for sailors who need to filter out reflected light and still read electronic gauges, it's great for all watersports.

2. Photochromic, polarized, and Rx-able lenses mean anybody can play on land or water in everything from low light to searing brightness while their shades adjust from nearly clear to super-dark. Primo optics reveal wonderful detail and depth, even with a color-neutral gray tint.

3. Gales may howl and photons attack, but snap-on side shields provide incredibly complete protection from peripheral glare and wind. Even without the shields in place, oversize lenses ride close to the cheekbones, and the brow-hugging design shuts out overhead sun.

4. Bendable nylon temples and adjustable metal nose-pieces tweak the fit to perfection. Though light and comfortable, these babies hang on tight. And moisture actually increases security: Hydrophilic rubber gets stickier when wet. For the roughest conditions, there's a floating lanyard.

5. Stellar lenses aside, the rest of the construction is grade A, too. Every metal component is made of corrosion-fighting stainless steel. And the look is so sharp and salty, this ultra-techy performance number qualifies as street wear, especially in the optional matte black.

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