

New Gear for Mountaineering in 2017

Mostly Colorado 13ers and 14ers

By TJ Burr

July 14, 2017

Here are some new items I purchased for climbing this year and beyond. Part of my motivation was to lighten my load on my alpine day pack. I always pack a little more than I need for those “just in case” scenarios. I overheat easily, so warmth and moisture management are important to me.

These four items are things that I will use on nearly every hike or climb.

Shirt, Base Layer, Long Sleeve, Merino Wool (10.09 oz)

Use as a base layer for climbing in Colorado. Use with other layers that you can add or remove. Collar provides neck protection. Half-zipper allows for better warmth and moisture management. Comfortable. On most summer climbs, this will be the layer I wear the most with two other items easily accessible to put on up high or if clouds move in.

Soft, moisture-wicking 100% merino wool makes the men's REI merino midweight half-zip base layer top an ideal next-to-skin layer for high-performance cold-weather activities.

REI Co-op **Merino Midweight Half-Zip Base Layer Top** - Men's (\$89.50)



- ◆ Ultrafine 200g merino wool offers a soft feel without the scratchiness
- ◆ Merino wool naturally wicks away sweat and resists odors
- ◆ Flat seams eliminate chafing
- ◆ Tall neck extends coverage; zipper with chin guard lets you adjust ventilation
- ◆ Droptail hem stays tucked in and is designed to work under a pack's hip belt
- ◆ Designed to hug the body for optimum performance
- ◆ Machine washable

Patagonia Houdini Jacket (4.23 oz for XL)

I can't believe I paid \$99.00 for a nylon jacket with only 4.2 ounces of material. I had a REI gift card, which helped offset the cost. This will be my second or third layer, depending on what I need it for. If a light wind kicks up and chills me, I'll add this to my base layer. If the temperature drops and I need more warmth, I'll make this a third layer.

Ultra-light windproof and water-resistant Patagonia Houdini Jacket (4.23 oz)



Folded and neatly packed away.

Windproof and water resistant for layering. Purchased on 7/14/2017 at REI for \$99.00.

Offering runners ultralight and water-resistant protection from the elements, the men's Patagonia Houdini zip-front jacket features an adjustable hood and stuffs into its own zippered chest pocket.

Offering ultralight and water-resistant protection from the elements, this men's running shell features an adjustable hood and stuffs into its own zippered chest pocket.

- ◆ Weather-resistant, ripstop nylon fabric blocks the wind and withstands abrasion
- ◆ Durable water repellent finish coats the shell and the center-front zipper
- ◆ Slim fit accommodates base layers or light mid layers
- ◆ Hood cinches with a single pull and won't pinch your ears or block peripheral vision
- ◆ Half-elastic cuffs seal the wrists and a drawcord cinches the hem
- ◆ Cording, toggles, and cuffs are all trim and lightweight
- ◆ Jacket packs snugly into its own small, zippered chest pocket, which has a reinforced carabiner clip-in loop
- ◆ Reflective logos on the left chest and center-back neck enhance visibility
- ◆ The jacket weighs just 3.3 oz. [The XL is 4.23 oz]

Buff, Merino Wool, Multifunctional Headwear (1.59 oz)

I've never owned a "buff" and the first time I heard about it was when I visited Alan Arnette's website (www.alanarnette.com). Alan is a well-known mountaineer who has climbed all of Colorado's Fourteeners, Mt. Everest, K2, and many other big mountains.

I can see myself using this for many of the said functions. I typically use a cotton bandana as a sweatband to keep sweat from dripping into my eyes. I wouldn't rely on this for a stocking cap on a winter climb, but it will work for a summer or fall climb if the temperature dips. There is hardly ever dust on Colorado 14ers, but it is possible. The back of my neck always gets too much sun, so I can use it for neck protection. I will definitely use this on my next climb.

www.buffusa.com



Whether you twist it, flip it, fold it or just slip it on, the Buff Wool Buff® will keep your head warm and protected during cold-weather activities.

Purchased from REI on 7/14/2017 for \$29.00.

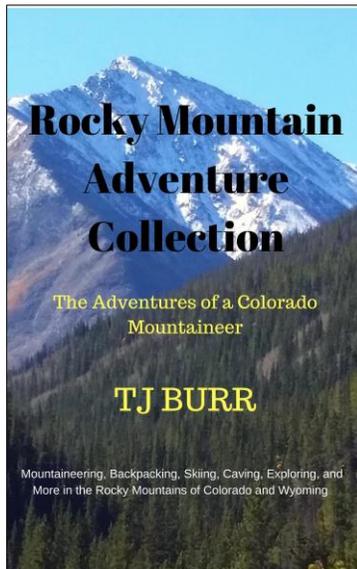
- ◆ 100% merino wool buff has a soft hand and it wicks, insulates and resists odors naturally; wool provides excellent insulation even when wet
- ◆ Built-in stretch gives this buff the versatility to be worn **12 different ways**, including as a mask, bandana, hairband, balaclava or scarf.
- ◆ Specially treated to be machine washable
- ◆ Provides protection for the neck, face, and head.

Carabiners

There are many uses for carabiners for other purposes than climbing. I have many carabiners but decided to add two more to my collection. I almost always have one of these on each side of my backpack straps on the front so that I can hook my thumbs in them when my back needs a little help. I just like hiking with my thumbs in the loops. One of them has my whistle attached to it. If you ever need to summon help, a whistle is invaluable. I've also used them to attach various items to my backpack. You can hang things from them around camp. You can hang a light from them in your tent.



Purchased 2 Black Diamond Light-D carabiners from REI for \$6.50 each. Weight = 1.73 oz.



For more information about TJ Burr and his published work:

- ◆ TJ Burr's Author Website: [TJ Burr at Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/TJ-Burr)
- ◆ Rocky Mountain Adventure Collection at Amazon: [Rocky Mountain Adventure Collection](https://www.amazon.com/Rocky-Mountain-Adventure-Collection)
- ◆ SummitPost blog site: [SummitPost.org/users/TJ Burr](https://SummitPost.org/users/TJ-Burr)
- ◆ Follow TJ on Twitter at: [Twitter.com/TJ Burr](https://twitter.com/TJ-Burr)
- ◆ Follow TJ's Publisher on Facebook at: [Facebook.com/Alpinhaven Publications](https://Facebook.com/Alpinhaven-Publications)