

EDITORS' CHOICE AWARDS WIN THE GEAR
IN THIS ISSUE!

P. 168

BACKPACKER

THE OUTDOORS AT YOUR DOORSTEP

Gear Guide

**542 REVIEWS
& SKILLS**

**THE TOUGHEST
STUFF EVER** P. 25

ULTIMATE HOW TO

- MAKE A FIRST-AID KIT
- DIAL IN PACK COMFORT
- REPAIR YOUR OWN GEAR
- EAT YOUR BEST MEAL EVER
- FIND BIG-GUY BAGS & TENTS
- JOIN OUR READER TEST TEAM

**ULTRALIGHT
SURVIVAL**
THREE OUNCES
THAT COULD
SAVE YOUR
LIFE (P. 151)

**BEGINNER
GUIDES**
HOW TO
FIND & FIT
THE GEAR
YOU NEED

**BARGAIN
HUNTER**
25
KILLER
DEALS
& WEB
FINDS



**CUT WEIGHT,
NOT COMFORT**
28 ULTRALIGHT PICKS

APRIL 2010

\$5.99US

04>



WWW.BACKPACKER.COM

T

Tape

McNett Tenacious Tape repairs any fabric without leaving behind the sticky residue that many duct tapes do. It's superversatile, too; we sealed up leaky air mattresses, tent mesh tears, and punctured puffers. \$5; mcnett.com



Tarp clamps

Coghlan's Tarp Clips make short work of stringing a shade canopy. Each clip has a clamp on one end and a hole on the other. Simply affix a clamp anywhere along the edge of the tarp, loop your cord through

the hole, and tie off or stake the end. Result: faster, more versatile pitching. \$4; coghlans.com

Toilet paper

With **Charmin To Go Toilet Tissue**, there's no need to unwind full-sized rolls in order to downsize for a short overnight. This 55-sheet package of single-ply tissue comes in its own water-resistant dispenser. \$1.40; 1 oz.; rei.com

Toothbrush

Next trip, scrub your pearlys with a dollar bill. Sort of—the handles of **RADIUS's Source** brushes come in blends of polypropylene and recycled cash, flax, or wood. And you can replace the wide, soft-bristled heads when they wear out. (Add a travel case for \$3.) \$7; radiustoothbrush.com



Towel

Our tester wasn't expecting much from this drab swatch of fabric, but the **Discovery Trekking Extreme Ultralite Fast-Dry Towel** impressed him: It packs



small, absorbs water well, and doesn't stink, even when multiple rainy days keep it from drying out. The stretchy fabric is impregnated with bacteria-inhibiting silver, so it won't start growing mildew. "It was great for mopping up water inside the tent when I camped in the rain," he says. "Or for drying off after an evening dip in the lake." \$20; 3 oz.; discoverytrekking.com

Trekking poles

The **Black Diamond Syncline** achieves an unusual (but welcome) pairing: It's cheap and light. That's because this pole consists of two segments rather than three. It's less compressible (collapsed, it measures 38 inches), but that makes it a great choice for hikers who tend to keep their poles in their hands, not on their packs. Just one easy-to-use "Flicklock" mechanism adjusts its length up to 59 inches; a section of foam below the rubber grip lets you choke up on the pole when climbing; and two basket

