

▶ THE PISTONED MASK

WILSON SHOCK FX HELMET

Catchers are the drummers of the sports world: toiling in the background, with the added inconvenience of periodically taking pitches to the face. Wilson may have solved both problems with its new FX helmet. The "floating" steel cage connects to the helmet via four pistons, diffusing the blunt force trauma of a 95-mph fastball and preserving the player's cranium. And then there's that *Blade Runner* style. A glinting two-tone paint scheme, swooping curves, and slatted ventilation combine to give lowly catchers armored in the Shock FX a presence no one can ignore. \$149; wilson.com



▶ THE ROBOTIC SKI

ANTON GLIDERS

In a sport in which innovation often serves only the needs of the elite, Anton Wilson's Gliders threaten to let beginners and intermediates carve like pros. Here's how: On anything short of Vail-grade powder, the ends of your average skis lift free and chatter. That's where the dual suspension system built into the Gliders' runners takes over, its springs flexing the slats like hunting bows, providing an arch that will hold its edge tight to even the hardest pack. For those with deep pockets, Wilson offers optional carbon Wagner decks at more than double the price, tuned for more experienced riders who want a new toy. That is, one that can be adjusted into 20 positions for a perfectly dialed ride. \$1,790; antongliders.com



▶ THE MESH MOUNTAIN BIKE DELTA 7 SPORTS ARANTIX

Lightness and strength are the seemingly mutually exclusive yin and yang of mountain-bike manufacturing, but Delta 7 Sports may have found the absolute balance with a new technology it calls IsoTruss. Minimalism taken to its apogee, the bike is composed of small carbon-fiber struts handwoven together to create a lattice that looks like an unskinned geodesic dome — visually flimsy, but self-supported and nearly unbreakable due to the inherent geometric strength of the triangle. Although the 2.6-pound Arantix isn't the lightest hardtail frame available (Scott's Scale LTD weighs only 2.14 pounds), it marks a whole new direction in bike design. Act fast, early adopters: Only 50 Arantix frames will be made this year. FRAME, \$6,995; delta7sports.com



DETAIL:

Broken struts on the frame can be repaired individually, so fixing a damaged Arantix is easier than other carbon-fiber bikes.

