

# FASHION AND FUNCTION

by Mike Deme

**Nike Sunglasses** Sunglasses are fun, hip and make a fashion statement. For the cyclist, however, they are more than that — they are protection against rain, wind, flying objects (including bugs) and, most importantly, the damaging visible and invisible rays of the sun. For me, the most important features a pair of sunglasses can offer are eye coverage and breathability. Unfortunately, those two



**Nike Mojo**

characteristics usually interfere with each other, and finding a pair that offers both can be difficult. Two Nike models stand out, having combined these two features well. The Interchange Monza (\$99) offers easily inter-

changeable lenses in grey and orange, providing UV and infrared protection in both sunny and grey conditions. The wrap style offers excellent eye coverage and a series of three holes in the nose piece provides good ventilation, even when the weather is hot and rainy. If you are not interested in interchangeable lenses, Nike offers the Mojo

**SPD Shoes**

I once owned a pair of Scott OverRock spd compatible cycling shoes and wore them until they fell apart, literally. It took me quite some time to find another pair of shoes that I liked (Lake MX 176, Product Watch January/February 2002) but I've continued to look and have found a couple of others.

The Pearl Izumi Bolder (\$85) is a low-cut shoe that offers what I like to call the "normal look." In other words, it looks like a shoe you could wear around town without waddling like a duck or having your feet resemble UFOs. But these are cycling shoes and they have the features to prove it. The sole is stiff enough to combat foot fatigue but flexible enough to walk in, offers a reinforced heel and toe area and comes with a removable cleat cover that

can be reinstalled if one were to do some hiking while on tour.

The Shimano SH-Mo58 shoes (\$100) are similar to the Pearl Izumi shoes but offer a 3/4-length upper for those who need a bit more ankle sup-



**Big Agnes Sleeping System**

port. They are more narrow shoes, as I've found Shimano shoes to be throughout the years, so if you have wide feet they may not be for you. They also have the removable cleat cover and soles that range comfortably between firm and flexible.

**Big Agnes Sleeping System**

Yep, it's another one of those "why didn't I think of that" moments. The Big Agnes System I've been using consists of a Zirkel 775 down fill sleeping bag

(\$279) and REM Air Core Mummy Pad (\$54). "Big deal," you say but, unlike the typical sleeping bag/pad combination, they are designed to work together and eliminate the constant readjustment necessary to keep the pad under the bag, so you don't end up with a pointy rock in your back. The Big Agnes System integrates the Air Core Pad into a sheath sewn into the bottom of the sleeping bag, assuring that it stays in place no matter how squirmy a sleeper you are. I've never been more comfortable in a sleeping bag.

**Camelbak Rocket**

In the past I've reviewed the larger capacity water carrier systems designed to lug around a day's or two day's worth of stuff but, much to my

**Shimano SH-Mo58**



**Pearl Izumi Border Shoe**

surprise, many people have told me they don't need that much capacity. OK. Got the message. Presenting the Camelbak Rocket (\$80), a sleek system that offers a more minimalist approach to carrying water on your back. The Rocket offers a water capacity of 72 ounces, a cargo space of 100 cubic inches and total weight of 5.6 pounds when full of water. The Omega reservoir contains a large screw cap closure I can fit my hand through and the HydraLock Big Bite Valve is absolutely leakproof when in the off position.



**Camelbak Rocket**

There is enough capacity to carry a pump, some tools, a couple of energy bars, tube repair kit and a light jacket while the sternum strap and waist belt provide stability and support.

Contact info:

- **Big Agnes:** (877) 554-8975 [www.bigagnes.com](http://www.bigagnes.com)
- **Camelbak:** (800) 767-8725, [www.camelbak.com](http://www.camelbak.com)
- **Nike:** (800) 344-6453 [www.nike.com](http://www.nike.com)
- **Pearl Izumi:** (800) 328-8488, [www.pearlizumi.com](http://www.pearlizumi.com)
- **Shimano:** (949) 951-5003, [www.bike.shimano.com](http://www.bike.shimano.com) 