



Outside – Buyer's Guide

Summer 2012

Getting Started: Freeride

Featuring: Zealot 16

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GETTING STARTED freeride

Perhaps the biggest improvement to our bike-park riding came from the **Rockshox Reverb post** (\$370; srnm.com), which let us slam the seat five full inches with the press of the bar-mounted switch, so we could really get back on steeps and jumps.

Bringing the company's flat, easy-to-use hydration bladders to the all-mountain crowd, the **Osprey Zealot 16** (\$150; ospreypacks.com) has an airy, ribbed suspension system, stretchy harness, and attachment points for a full-face helmet.

With a slack 47-degree head angle and through-axles front and rear, the six-inch-travel **Trek Remedy 9** (28.1 lbs; \$4,400; trekbikes.com) let us ride harder, steeper terrain than we imagined possible. With Shimano XT parts (plus an XTR derailleur), Trek's proprietary dual-chamber technology in both shocks, and adjustable geometry, this aluminum model is the best value.

The **Giro Feature** (\$75; giro.com) provides more coverage out back for bigger-hit riding in a lightweight (11 ounce) and surprisingly breathable lid that doesn't look like some techy, cross-country race helmet.

We love the versatility of the **FiveTen Maltese Falcon** (\$149; fiveten.com). Though we could step off when we pleased, the Stealth S1 outsole stayed glued to our flats on rooted steeps and high wall rides, while the SPD-compatible recess meant we could clip in to pedal uphill, too.



The **Tifosi Masts** (from \$70; tifisioptics.com) are loaded with features—vents that prevent fogging, interchangeable photochromic lenses—at a reasonable price.

The **POC Spine VPD 2.0** jacket packs (pocsports.com) packs motorcycle protection into a relatively lightweight package. The armor is pliable and comfortable until impact, when it goes fully rigid to protect you.

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