

Hitch Halo

The Hitch Halo (\$19.95) from Diversified Products fits over your hitch's draw bar, protecting you from bumps, rips, tears and greasy smears. Contact Diversified Products: (203) 328-3045; www.hitchhalo.com.

Colin Campbell, Cleveland, OH: "The Hitch Halo is a lightweight, quality safety feature. Now my shins won't be bitten by a hitch as I walk past my rig in the dark." Ferrell Gilmer, Lawrenceville, GA: "The Hitch Halo easily slides onto your hitch. Not only does it help you avoid putting your knee into the hitch altogether, but when you do walk into it, you don't hurt yourself."

FIELD TEST RATINGS

Design	7.2
Ease Of Use	7.7
Effectiveness	7.5
Rated Against Similar Products	7.0
Overall Rating	7.4

Favorite Feature
Easy installation



SOSpenders PFD

SOSpenders PFDs (\$199.99; re-arm kit, \$20) automatically inflate in seconds to provide twice the buoyancy of most foam vests. The innovative vests are tailored off the neck and will not limit your range of motion like other bulky PFDs. They also feature reflective tape for greater visibility in low light. Contact SOSpenders at: (800) 858-5876; www.sospenders.com.

Anthony Kopp, Lakeville, MN: "SOSpenders let me move and cast freely while fishing. I've never worn such a comfortable life vest."

Paul Sharp, Waxahachie, TX: "This vest is easy to re-arm after being inflated and is light and comfortable."

FIELD TEST RATINGS

Quality	9.4
Design	8.8
Effectiveness	8.8
Comfort	8.1
Overall Rating	8.8

Favorite Feature
Lightweight



Surestrike

The Surestrike (\$2.49 to \$4.99) weighting system puts your bait at the depth you want and keeps it there, and can double as a scent disperser. Twist the Surestrike onto your line at the desired length from the lure, and it can be cast, trolled or used as a float. Contact Underwater Suspension Apparatus at: (888) 424-3474; www.usafishingtackle.com.

Albert Tinsman, Berryville, VA: "Surestrike left a scent trail behind my bait and attracted fish. I got bites while those fishing on either side of me did not." John Bocian, Countryside, IL: "Surestrike can be used as a float, or can give you direct control of sinking speed. It works great with fish attractants and allows you to keep the bait in the strike zone—similar to drop-shotting."

FIELD TEST RATINGS

Ease Of Use	9.2
Design	9.3
Versatility	8.3
Fish Attraction	8.1
Overall Rating	8.7

Favorite Feature
Versatility



Fenwick HMX Series Rods

Fenwick HMX Series rods (\$79.95 to \$84.95) feature dual-tapered IM6 blanks strengthened by cross-scrim graphite from tip to butt, giving exceptional crush resistance. The rods' Santoprene soft-touch reel seats are ergonomically designed to prevent hand fatigue, and the insert-molded grip and trigger provide a solid grip—even when wet. The stainless steel guides are chromium-plated for extra hardness and wear resistance. Contact Fenwick at: (877) 336-7637; www.fenwickfishing.com.

Matt Bahr, Pottsville, MI: "The medium-action HMX I tested was surprisingly more sensitive than I expected. I had no problem feeling light walleye hits, and I still had plenty of backbone to set the hook and pull them in." Patrick Earley, Culver City, CA: "The HMX is extremely light and has a comfortable handle. The rod features strong, smooth guides and a sensitive tip."

FIELD TEST RATINGS

Sensitivity	9.4
Ease Of Use	9.6
Design	9.2
Quality	9.3
Overall Rating	9.4

Favorite Feature
Sensitivity

