

BikeRadar's best gear of 2012 – part one

In the closing weeks of 2012, the *BikeRadar* staff will be listing our favorite riding goodies from the last year. We'll start with tech editor James Huang's list of goodies...

2012 brought out the usual array of test products and introductions, some of which missed their mark, others that were very good but still forgettable, and a select few that I found truly special. Some of my favorite items from the past year are new, but several are faithful standards that I found myself reaching for time and again.

3. Camelbak Volt LR hydration pack

Camelbak's latest addition to its lumbar-style packs fast became a staple this year, due to its comfortable and stable design, smart compartment layout, and surprisingly accommodating storage capacity.

Barely bulkier or heavier than the Charge LR but nearly as versatile as the stalwart M.U.L.E., this has become my go-to trail option for anything short of an all-day slugfest in high alpine terrain or a day on the lifts.

