

Heads-Up Video Your cell phone has one. Your laptop has one. Isn't it time you strapped a videocam to your head? Your YouTube footage will get far more interesting. —Jeff Lysgaard

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1. V.I.O. POV1.5

Ever notice how the water along the shoreline recedes drastically right before a tsunami? You will now—or, at least, whoever recovers the highly shock- and water-resistant POV1.5 will. Built like it was made for special ops, this camera will likely survive your exploits even if you don't. You can set the cam to record a continuous loop, and when something cool happens, just hit a button to save the footage: Bragging rights guaranteed. **WIRED** Easy interface. Ten levels of mic sensitivity. Small remote straps to your wrist, so you can stash the main control unit in your bag.

TIRED Resolution maxes out at 720 x 480; standard-def seems a little low-rent for such a spendy gadget.

B Bulky and heavy. | \$650

2. Twenty20 ContourHD

The runner-up in our B-roll brawl came in a seriously close second—for less than half the price. The ContourHD's 720p video trounced all comers with its smooth, beautiful images. The whole kit weighs less than 5 ounces and looks more like an ornament than an eyesore. **WIRED** Stunning image quality. Record/Stop slider switch is easy to operate, even with gloves on. Accepts up to 16 GB of microSD storage, and a 2-gig card is included. Laser-assisted aiming. *Hell, yeah.*

TIRED With no LCD, you can't review what you've shot until you jack into a computer—a problem for long trips. Video quality suffers noticeably in low light. At speeds above 30 mph, the microphone listens

7 only to the wind. | \$300



HOT SUMMER GEAR

3. GoPro Helmet Hero Wide

The Hero earns its expansive moniker with a massive 170-degree field of view. No other camera comes close to that, possibly for a reason: We got motion-sick watching the road disappear below our motorcycle's front tire. (Skiers and snowboarders, however, say they dig it.) The Hero's clear-plastic casing protects the camera from shocks and up to 100 feet of water but blocked a little too much sound. **WIRED** Hi and Lo settings let you customize audio reception (hint: choose Hi). Great image quality for the price—smooth and unpixelated. Also snaps 5-megapixel stills. **TIRED** Jerky

6 video playback. No LCD for checking your footage. | \$190



4. Oregon Scientific Action Camera ATC5K

With enough mounting doodads to stick the cam on your handlebars, helmet, beer can, whatever, the ATC5K appears ready for any outdoor activity. The water-resistant casing is effective down to 10 feet, and the 1.5-inch LCD is an unexpected luxury. Unfortunately, transitions between light and dark environments were slow, and the video was very grainy. **WIRED** USB and RCA cables make for easy exhibition on either a PC or TV. **TIRED** Rubber helmet-mounting strap sucks; it couldn't hold the cam in place, so we resorted to double-stick tape (not

5 included). Interface is hard to parse, especially the icons. | \$220

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