



Start's Dimension Three (SD3) Outside Magazine's Hot Nordic Pole!

"Since they're wound in a 3-D process, Start's SD3 (\$455 startskiwax.com/en) are strong where most poles are weak—down by the aero baskets—and stiff where most poles are soft, in the midshaft." **Outside**

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BY MARK PERUZZI
Upgrade SKATE SKIING

Top-of-the-line nordic gear doesn't just look and feel faster, it really is faster. Awkward Euro nomenclature notwithstanding, [1] Fischer's RCS Carbonlite Skating Hole skis (\$600; fischer.com) are the most powerful (but still, crazy light) skis we've ever reviewed. The namesake hole in each tip reduces weight so you can boost your diagonal stride cadence—especially when climbing. Pair them with [2] Fischer's Racing Xcelerator Skate NS bindings (\$130). The metal (not plastic) closure mechanism helps ramp up the power of your kick. Complete the package with [3] Alpina's Elite Carbon Skate boots (\$449; alpinasports.com). The anatomical carbon-fiber struts that serve as the cuff pour leg power into the ski. Since they're wound in a 3-D process, [4] Start's SD3 poles (\$455; startskiwax.com/en) are strong where most poles are weak—down by the aero baskets—and stiff where most poles are soft, in the midshaft. The jury may still be out on whether compression benefits performance, but it sure feels good, especially when it's built into a fast-wicking base layer like [5] Supoi's Piston 140 (\$80; supoi.com). For outer layers, you can't beat the versatility of [6] Arc'teryx's Trino jersey (\$199; arcteryx.com) and the [7] Gore Bike Wear ALPX SD pants (\$160; gorebikewear.com). Both are stretchy and block wind—and both can easily double as cold-weather running or biking layers. A thin sheet of Gore's Windstopper fabric in the [8] Hestra Windstopper Action Racing gloves (\$60; hestra.com) provides the perfect amount of protection and warmth. Down low, pull on a pair of toasty [9] SmartWool PhD Graduated Light socks (\$40; smartwool.com). And last, fully embrace your inner nordic dork with [10] Swix's earmuffs (\$18; swixsport.com), which keep your ears warm and your body cool when you're hammering away at the climbs.

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2012 Outside BUYER'S GUIDE OF THE YEAR

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START®

BY MARC PERUZZI

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