

# EQUIPMENT ULTRALIGHT QUICKDRAWS

**WILD COUNTRY HELIUM**  
 \$23 wildcountry.co.uk

- Weight: 2.5oz
- Open-gate strength: 10kN
- Carabiner: ●●●●●
- Sling: ●●●●○

**OVERALL GRADE: A**

The Helium's weight, shrouded, notchless nose, high open-gate rating, and 3 Sigma certification made it the best ultralight quickdraw reviewed. The secret is Wild Country's patented I-Beam construction, which results in a very high strength-to-weight ratio.



The 10mm Dyneema sling was light-and-strong and glided smoothly with the movements of the rope. We had just two small complaints: One, the Helium draw, like the DMM Shield, features two of the same full-sized biners, which makes for a heavier-than-necessary configuration, as well as thumby handling while clipping to and from bolts, gear, and harness, especially true, again, for people with small hands. Two, the Helium uses O-ring retention bands to keep the rope-side biner from rotating in the draw. In an arid climate, these bands can dry out and break, and once they do, both biners can rotate any which way – at least until you raid your girlfriend's hairband stash.

**Climbing Editors' Choice**

GEAR & SAFETY GUIDE • ROPES



**WILD COUNTRY/HELIUM QUICKDRAW**

\$23.50 (for 15 cm length)

The Helium Clean Wire is the first carabiner to use "I-beam" construction, which makes this full-size biner strong yet extremely light. At a scant 1.2 ounces, the Helium biner boasts a strength of 24 kN major axis, 9 kN minor axis and an impressive 10 kN with an open gate. Take two Helium biners and attach them with a thin 10 mm Dyneema sling, and you'll have one of the lightest and best quickdraws around.

Climbing Magazine-  
 Editors Choice  
 Gear Guide

Rock and Ice -  
 Gear Guide 2007  
 Best InGear Award

## FIELD TESTED



### LIGHT DUTY

**WILD COUNTRY HELIUM**

The Helium Clean Wire is the first carabiner to use the "I-beam" construction that makes steel girders strong yet light. This application gives the Helium the best strength-to-weight ratio of any carabiner. At a scant 1.2 ounces, it's the lightest full-size biner ever made. With strengths of 24 kN major axis, 9 kN-minor axis and 10 kN with its gate open, it is one of the strongest biners on the market.

Available either anodized (\$11.50) or polished (\$10.95), the Helium is hot forged. This

process allows the carabiner's nose to form a protruding hood, which helps keep the wire gate from scraping against the rock and accidentally opening. The disadvantage is that this bulky nose is also more difficult to wiggle through tight spots, such as wads of jammed-up slings or old-style bolt hangers and pins. For you safety freaks, the Helium is CE and UIAA certified, strength rated using 3 Sigma, and manufactured to ISO 9001 protocol. *Wild Country/Excalibur: 801-942-8471, wildcountry.co.uk.*