

Wild Country Rockcentrics,
seven sizes, \$95 for set
Overall grade: A

**Editors'
Choice**



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July 2005 'The big and the small:
hexes and micronuts' by Matt Stanley

**If you're an avid alpine or
adventure climber, hexes
make an inexpensive,
alternative to using cams
as bail anchors.**

Summary: Having not used curved hexes prior to this test, I was a bit skeptical. I figured it was just a gimmick to try to sex up hex sales. How wrong I was. The moment I place my first Rockcentric, I was sold. Like the Metolius chocks, the Rockcentrics have a great camming action that makes them vastly superior to straight-sided units. I found that they were more intuitive to place than the Metolius hexes, because their profile very much mirrors that of a curved nut. These chocks were also excellent in flares, where the curved sides of the Metolius units don't work well. The Rockcentrics are available with Dyneema or cables (as a rule we definitely prefer Dyneema over cable), and cover a range from .94 inches to 2.87 inches. I plan to keep the #5 and #6 sizes in a handy spot on my rack.

Wild Country/Excalibur:
801.942.8471, www.wildcountry.co.uk

FIELD TESTED LIGHTEN UP

HEXCELLENT

WILD COUNTRY ROCKCENTRICS ON DYNEEMA, 1.2 TO 5.6 OUNCES

Hexes might seem like outdated pieces of equipment. Why wrestle with a clanging cowbell when you can plug in a cam? It's simple: weight and money. Hexes are about 50-percent lighter and a quarter of the cost of an equivalent-sized cam. Plus, they are surprisingly versatile: Slot a hex sideways into a crack and it will twist under load, wedging itself more firmly in place. Insert the hex along its long axis and you have a placement that will span a wider crack.

RockCentrics on Dyneema are the lightest hexes available. A RockCentric #5 (\$13.25) weighs 1.9 ounces compared to 3.9 ounces for an equivalent-sized Technical Friend #2 (\$55). RockCentrics improve on the original straight-sided hex design by offering concave and convex faces, which provide more camming action and better-sitting placements. Some people prefer hexes slung on wire, like a nut, because the wire extends reach when making overhead placements. Not me: Hexes slung on Dyneema are lighter and don't require quickdraws.

After using RockCentrics I gave away all my cams ... only joking! Hexentrics are best used as supplemental pieces of gear when you need to carry an extra-large rack. *Wild Country/Excalibur: 801-942-8471, www.wildcountry.co.uk.*

