

## Wild Country SUPERLIGHT ROCKS

Just outside my home of Glenwood Springs, there's an anonymous little crag appropriately known as No Name, comprised of a few scruffy granite outcrops that will never register on anyone's roadtrip itinerary. One face, the Poison Ivy Wall (again, appropriately named), sports several meandering, thin, shallow face cracks that taper and twist like writhing snakes. Cams are relatively useless here; the placements are much more amenable to good nutcraft. Even then, regular nuts often don't sit quite right — too much beef across their widths. On the other hand, my HB Brass Offsets are too small. What to do?

Now that I have Wild Country's new Superlight Rocks (\$70 for the set of six), I know *exactly* what to use. Sporting the exact same curvature and vertical size as the smaller sizes of Wild Country's familiar Rocks, the Superlight Rocks are almost square in shape when you look straight down on them. Sporting slightly tapered, flat sides adjacent to the curved ones, these color-coded gems are the ticket for placements too narrow for regular nuts and too voluminous for micro-nuts. In the tight slots of *Lightning Bolt Crack* I found several such spots and was more than happy to sink a Superlight Rock. And despite their smaller size relative to regular nuts, the Superlight Rocks still have enough beef to them to provide that oh-so-necessary feeling of good "bite" when you set them.

The Superlight Rocks sport fixed cables, rather than the looped, sliding ones of their chunkier cousins. This is necessary due to their small size — there simply isn't room in the nuts to shape channels for looping wires. That single stem is great for tight placements where the doubled-up wire of a regular cable would consume too much space. It also makes them much more prone to kinking than regular wired nuts. This is less ideal for swift, clean-and-jerk removal — keep your nut key handy and be prepared to spend a few extra moments extracting.

— Matt Stanley

■ Wild Country/Excalibur (801) 942-8471, [www.wildcountry.co.uk](http://www.wildcountry.co.uk)



## LITTLE WONDERS

### WILD COUNTRY SUPERLIGHT ROCKS

Nearly 30 chock shapes jam sales bins, so you wouldn't figure it possible—or necessary—to introduce yet another version. Nevertheless, the Superlight Rocks shoulder-in by weighing a mere 3.5 ounces for a set of six (\$70), a remarkable 40 percent less than Wild Country's own comparably sized Rocks.

Available in medium sizes, from .27 to .62 inches, bridging the gap between micro nuts and regular wires, these deft creatures shed the fat two ways. They are strung on a single cable, rather than a traditional looped wire, and are trimmed widthwise, narrowing their "wide" profile by about 40 percent.

I found the double-tapered, plug-like Superlights to be *more* useful than standard-shaped nuts, which I seldom, if ever, place "endwise." Because the Superlights vary little from their wide to narrow profiles, you can slap one in, and upon finding it a tad too big or small, simply rotate it to down- or up-size, rather than futz about on the rack for another nut. The single, low-profile cable also lets the nuts slot and seat markedly better in any placement, shallow or deep, than a standard, wire-loop nut.

Smartly anodized in colors that match their Rock cousins (e.g., the purple #1 Superlight has the same cross dimension as the purple #1 Rock), a set of Superlights also lets you rack up without memorizing a new color-coding system. *Wild Country/Excalibur: 801-942-8471, [wildcountry.co.uk](http://wildcountry.co.uk).*

