



**Editors' Choice**  
Best all-around quickdraw

## Wild Country Wild Wire \$16.50

The Wild Wire is a great all-rounder: the biners are full-size, finger friendly and surprisingly light, and the Spectra sling is lean, versatile and available in several lengths. The sling is especially great for traditional routes as it's available in three lengths, hangs trimly on a crowded rack, and is flexible enough to make a half twist and squeeze through thin cracks, ensuring proper loading. The same features can be a small drawback on sport routes though, as the bottom biner doesn't always hang in line with the top one, and the sling isn't stiff enough to help extend your reach when trying to clip high bolts. Of course, the wire gates are great for ice and alpine use because they resist freezing. *Wild Country/Excalibur: 801-942-8471, www.wildcountry.co.uk.*

Total weight: 3.3 ounces  
Sling material: 12mm Spectra  
Sling lengths: 4, 6, 8 inches  
Carabiner strengths: 23x7x9 kN  
Final Score: ★★★★★

Climbing Magazine USA

**EQUIPMENT**  
**THE RIGHT LIGHT**

- **PRODUCT:** Wild Country Xenon biners
- **PRICE:** \$10
- **ONLINE:** www.wildcountry.co.uk



The competitive race for carabiner manufacturers to make "the lightest biner yet" marches ever onward, but such biners will never be the foundation of your rack. Wild Country knows this, and to satisfy your needs, they've created the wiregate Xenon biner. This clip sports a deep, broad basket that comfortably accepts a clove hitch, the benchmark task for determining a biner's utility. The basket also has a smooth groove that keeps your cord guided into the basket. The gate has a wide opening and a solid, snappy action. Of course, given all the hype about ultralight biners, you're probably still wondering about weight. Don't fret – this link checks in at just 37 grams.

—MS



**WILD COUNTRY XENON**  
Weight 36g, Strength Closed 24kN, Open 9kN, Cross-loaded 7kN, Price: £7

Wild Country's slim Wild Wire came fast on the heels of BD's Hotwire, and although popular I always thought that it wasn't a perfect karabiner, probably because the wire gate was retro fitted to a normal karabiner (unlike all the krabs in my selection, which are designed as wire gates from scratch). This resulted in a design that had a greater chance of gate rub and whose gates often became sticky after time, which often let down an otherwise great design and karabiner. This year Wild Country have taken the Wild Wire and made amends with their excellent Xenon, which takes traditional krab design and adds a bit of I-Beam technology, a rub resistant nose and comes up with a beautiful little karabiner.

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