

{ GEAR }

Tread Lightly

{ BY RENEE BRINCKS }

On the heels of the barefoot-running trend — those thin, individual-toed styles that mimic the foot — comes a new class of lightweight running shoes. Recent releases promise more substantial coverage in a slimmed-down version of the traditional trainer.



ADIDAS ADIZERO FEATHER 2

Weighing in at just 6.7 ounces, this svelte running shoe was designed with speed in mind. Molded foam insoles cushion the feet, while a light yet sturdy frame provides impressive stability. The eye-catching new shoes (out next month) will have runners sprinting to stores. **\$115, www.adidas.com**



BROOKS PUREPROJECT

Don't be fooled by playful new neon colors — this line of lightweight shoes (between 6.5 and 9.5 ounces) means business. Anatomically inspired design decreases joint stress by shifting the point of ground contact forward to align with the runner's center of gravity. A flexible sole and streamlined construction keep feet snug and supported, and an elastic band wraps around the arch for a precise fit.

\$90 to \$120, www.brooksrunning.com



COLUMBIA MASTER FLY

Minimalism meets multisport functionality in this 6.8-ounce shoe that suits urban athletes and trail runners alike. Rugged rubber grips support off-road adventuring without weighing things down, and a nylon rock guard protects toes from sticks and rocks. The impact-absorbent sole and breathable mesh add extra comfort. **\$85, www.columbia.com**

BOTTLE-FREE

Banish bulky water bottles with the collapsible **Vapur Element**, an amped-up version of the company's classic Anti-Bottle. Lightweight layers of flexible, BPA-free nylon and antimicrobial polyethylene make this durable, widemouthed travel companion refillable, freezable and washable. Plus, it folds flat enough to tuck in a hiking pack or clip to a carry-on.

\$12 to \$14, www.vapur.us

—R.B.

