

## FIELD TESTED



### PROS

"Anti-panic" function. Lead and TR belay modes. Takes a wider range of rope diameters. Stainless-steel wear plates for longer lifespan.

### CONS

Price; costs \$50 more than GRIGRI 2. Heavier (200g vs. 170g for GRIGRI 2). Slightly bulkier than GRIGRI 2.

## Petzl GRIGRI+

**\$149.95 / PETZL.COM**

Petzl's GRIGRI has once again evolved into the next generation model—the Plus. The new GRIGRI+ further refines the time-tested, 26-year-old design with improvements in safety, durability and functionality. Here are highlights:

**Wider rope range.** The Plus, to be used with a suggested range of 8.5 to 11mm and a sweet spot of 8.9 to 10.5mm ropes, takes a wider range of diameters than its predecessor, the GRIGRI 2, which has a suggested range of 8.9 to 11mm and sweet spot of 9.4 to 10.3.

As ropes continue to get skinnier, I found the added range an improvement over the GRIGRI 2, since it gives you more control at the thinner end of the spectrum while still allowing you to use the same device for fuzzy old gym cords.

**Lead and top rope modes.** A new function of the GRIGRI+ is an option between two belay modes, one for top roping and one for leading. In "TR mode," the cam is looser, which means that it locks more easily when the climber weights the rope. In "lead mode," the cam is stiffer—stiffer even than with the GRIGRI 2—which I found made it easier to feed out slack more quickly and helped prevent short roping a climber.

**"Anti-Panic" function.** New to the GRIGRI+ is the added "anti-panic function"—a carryover from Petzl's personal-escape system for firefighters. If you "panic" and pull the lowering lever back too hard, the device locks again. This helps prevent belayers from dropping the climber—one of the most common human-error accidents with the device—or themselves when rappelling.

I find the feature tricky to get used to, however, when belaying a light climber or using a fat, fuzzy rope, because the anti-panic function can trigger unnecessarily, causing the device to lock up—a trade-off for the increased safety margin.

Should you upgrade to the Plus? Unlike the GRIGRI 2 when released, the GRIGRI+ isn't kicking out the older model—both are here to stay. So which one is best for you? Well, that depends. Longtime users might stay with their smaller, lighter versions unless they frequently climb with new belayers or in sandy environments that are harsh on gear. New belayers, climbing gyms and guides will want the new device because of its improvements in safety, durability and usability.

—Hayden Carpenter



### Rope type:

Single/half/twin

### Lengths:

70m.

### Treatments:

Full Dry.

### Best used for:

Everyday sport and trad cragging or multi-pitch climbing that calls for a single rope.

### Durability and handling:

Excellent durability, regardless of terrain, with user-friendly handling from first use.

## Black Diamond 9.2mm Full Dry

**\$259.95 / BLACKDIAMONDEQUIPMENT.COM**

**Black Diamond released its rope line in January**, offering a total of 13 new cords, from beefy 9.9mm gym ropes to a 7.8mm half rope. At 2.1 ounces per meter, the 9.2mm Full Dry is the lightest of the single ropes, designed for use in any season.

The selling point of the 9.2 is its durability. My partner and I gave this rope hell on over 100 pitches of climbing: single-pitch limestone sport routes at Shelf Road, offwidth thutrch fests in Indian Creek, giant multi-pitch walls in Zion, and the sharp granite of the Black Canyon. The rope, despite use on tough terrain—including me repeatedly grinding it into the rock while desperately trying to wedge my feet into sandstone splitters—proved durable indeed, with only minor aesthetic fraying occurring after 70 or so pitches. The only considerable flaw in the rope's resilience was that the middle marker faded quickly to become almost indistinguishable after only 30 or so pitches, leading to mild frustration when rappelling a multi-pitch climb.

The downside of this durability is a little extra weight compared to similar ropes on the market. The 9.2 Full Dry weighs up to 10 ounces more than other 9.2mm 70-meter ropes, but unless you're waxing your legs to achieve optimum sending weight, that shouldn't be a problem. This rope is also certified as a half or double rope, although two of these guys used together would be weighty for that application.

Straight out of the box, the rope was malleable and obedient, and it continued to behave, with no twisting or intolerable knotting throughout the 100-pitch test period. Its suppleness helped produce trustworthy knots that sat snugly, without the stiffness and loosening often accompanying new ropes. The only downside to this tightness was encountered when adjusting hitches at belays, which could be a little tricky, but I'll take a secure hitch over a loose one any day.

Flowing through both a GRIGRI and an ATC guide plate, the rope handled well and was easy to control when belaying and lowering—often a disconcerting task when using a thin new rope. In addition, it gives a nice, reassuring catch using both devices, with less stretch than a performance sport rope. In short, this rope has a lot of the characteristics of a chunkier cord, making it a solid choice for everyone from sport climbers to wandering Jack of All Traders.

—Harriet Ridley

