

Trend Report, 2009-10

A new season brings a fresh crop of innovations—some minor, some potentially game-changing. Here are a few of our top picks.

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What a release

The Knee Binding

A binding that prevents knee injury has long been skiing's Holy Grail. (Remember the Line Pivogy? Well-intentioned but unreliable.) Enter the Knee Binding (\$459; [kneebinding.com](#)), developed in Stowe, Vt. Its heel releases laterally under the loads that

commonly shred ACLs (think rearward, twisting fall). Other bindings can release laterally at the toe, but only upward at the heel. Time will tell how many knees the Knee Binding saves. But we tried it (in soft spring bumps as well as on hardpack), and we can say this: It skis great—solid, edgy, plenty precise.