



Zoggs White Predator £15.99

White is where it's at for 2009, with everything from sports cars to (inexplicably) mountain bike frames appearing in this most impractical of shades. Zoggs has picked up on the trend with this limited-edition version of their hugely popular Predator goggle, as worn by Olympic Champ Jan Frodeno and World Champ Daniel Unger.

The brand's Australian heritage means Zoggs take UV protection seriously throughout their goggle range; accordingly, the Predator is a great choice for open-water swimming.

The curved lenses give all-round vision and the large one-piece frame provides a superb seal. Super comfortable, relatively easy to adjust and offering great peripheral vision, the Predator in any guise is a great choice for transitioning from pool to open water. And, let's face it, if you're going to buy in to the white trend, goggles are probably a good place to start as they won't get muddy.

Contact Wiggle www.wiggle.co.uk

VERDICT

- + A stand-out version of a truly great goggle
- Impractical white won't be to everyone's liking

220 Triathlon RATING **9**

Open-Water Goggles

Don't know your silicone from your split-strap? Have no fear, **Nicola Joyce** is here to de-fog the cloudy world of open-water goggle buying

Goggles are an essential piece of kit for any sort of swimming. But if you're heading for the open water, you need to take the following into consideration before buying the right pair... Open-water specific goggles need to provide a wide angle of vision, offer UV-protection and, ideally, have lenses tinted for certain weather conditions. Whether you favour goggles, a mask or a hybrid love-child of the two, there are a range of specialist products on the market that could suit your needs. Here's a mini pick of the bunch for 2009...



TYR Nest Pro £12.99

The Nest Pro, whose looks are inspired by the Bird's Nest stadium in Beijing, was launched last year. While there's no promising they'll turn you into a Phelps or an Adlington, these goggles will certainly rest comfortably and remain water-tight in the wet stuff. The lenses offer wide peripheral vision, are great for both training and racing, and have anti-fog properties and UV-protection (both a must for swimming outdoors).

The split strap adjusts via a glide clip system at the back of the head, which is relatively quick and easy to use but not as advanced as some of the button-type adjust systems on other goggles. We tested the clear lenses, which are fine for the pool, but you'd probably want to select the smoked version or a coloured tint for open water.

The basic Nest Pro retails at £12.99, but there's a smaller version (which might be better suited for women) with a mirrored lens for £17. The choice is yours.

Contact Tyr 0845 606 6343 www.tyr.com

VERDICT

- + Good price with a selection of lens tints
- Not as easy to loosen with its strap system

220 Triathlon RATING **8**

TYR Arc 180 £20.00

TYR's tri-specific offering is the Arc180 mask, for those who prefer extra protection and heightened visibility. And because of the Arc 180's relatively small build and light weight, it's suitable for both adults and juniors. We tested the clear, but it also comes in a choice of smoke, blue and pink lenses, which are definitely a bonus in the real-light conditions of the open water. You could also use this mask for pool swimming but, quite honestly, it does feel a little too bulky for that.

In open water, however, it will excel – giving great all-round visibility (far better than any standard goggle), an extra feeling of security and crystal-clear vision. Its split strap will ensure it stays on in rough swims, and the slide ratchet system means that the strap is also very easy to adjust.

The Arc 180 will be available in the UK from June, just in time for the first open-water races of the season.

Contact Tyr 0845 606 6343 www.tyr.com

VERDICT	
+	Neat, compact design with great 180° vision
-	Pricier than goggles and less useful for the pool
220	8
Triathlon	RATING



Blue Seventy Hydra-Vision £18.99

When you think Blue Seventy, chances are you think 'wetsuit' rather than 'goggles'. But the American company were the official goggle brand for last year's FINA 10km Marathon Swimming World Cup. Yep, they know a thing or two about the open water.

The Hydra-Vision is a nice bit of kit; super-light and low-profile, it quietly concentrates on all the important bits. Like all the goggles on test here, it has curved lenses to give greater all-round visibility and clarity in open water. The mirrored lenses offer great anti-fog properties; the split strap ensure that the goggles will stay on in even the roughest of swims; and the clever push-button design makes for very easy adjustments to the strap.

But the one thing that the Hydra-Visions have over their rivals is they're supremely light weight. They have a barely-there quality, which makes a real difference to the way you feel when you wear them in the water.

VERDICT	
+	Very light; low-profile design minimises drag
-	Top end of price range; mirrored lenses won't suit all
220	8
Triathlon	RATING

Contact Blue Seventy 01332 886025 www.blueseventy.com



Aqua Sphere Kayenne £14.67

The brains behind some of the most innovative and award-winning goggles on the market have recently launched the Kayenne: a goggle with a low-drag frame that offers four-way vision (up and down as well as 180° to the sides).

The extra visibility is a great bonus for open-water swimming, where you'll want to be able to see as much of your surroundings as you possibly can, especially in a race scenario where navigation is key.

The smart-looking Kayenne incorporates Aqua Sphere's Quick Fit buckle for supremely fast and simple strap adjustment. It's so easy to use, you can even tighten or loosen the goggles as you're swimming along or waiting for your wave to start. The Kayenne lenses offer 100% UVA and UVB protection as well as anti-fog and scratch resistance, while the range of tinted lenses (come in clear too) provide great visibility outdoors or in bright light.

Contact Aqua Sphere 01254 692200 www.aquaspheresuk.co.uk

VERDICT	
+	Very reasonably priced for a premium product
-	Nothing at all during our swim test – perfect!
220	10
Triathlon	RATING

