



state of elevenate

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EQUIPMENT TEST: Elevenate's new freeski clothing

We have tested the new Bec des Étagnes (jacket) and Bec de Rosses (pants) from Swedish Elevenate.

Tore Meirik, Tuesday 24 November 2015 kl.13:26

Elevenate is located in Åre, Sweden, but has taken the names for its new freeski range from Verbier in Switzerland. The Bec de Rosses range has three-layer shell garments in Gore-tex Pro, and the Bec des Étagnes jacket is a slightly longer and somewhat more freeskiing-focused version of the Bec de Rosses jacket. The same pants work with both jackets, and we have tested Bec des Étagnes.

The clothes are solid and have plenty of detailing, but are not worryingly heavy and, according to Elevenate, they are excellent for both backcountry and lift-based skiing – with the latter the highest priority. All the models are available in a fairly large and diverse range of colours.

The clothes were tested and used through most of last season, for lift-based and backcountry skiing, both in Norway and abroad.

Elevenate Bec des Étagnes jacket

A helmet-friendly and adjustable hood, two cargo pockets that don't bulge, a chest pocket (Napoleon style), ski pass holder on the left upper arm, several inside pockets and a robust zip are some of the first things you'll notice. The outer material in nylon is soft and smooth, although of a slightly noisy type, so that these are perhaps not the clothes you'd take out on an elk hunt – and nor is that the intention.

The fit is excellent, the jacket is a dream to move in. The hood fits well outside a helmet, but it's not possible to move the hood back over the helmet without opening the zip at the neck. The hood can be tightened at the back and at two places on the neck – possibly too many adjustment options.

Ventilation under the arms goes without saying on these jackets. The zip is cleverly positioned and easy to use, even when wearing a backpack. The chest pocket is always accessible, but the larger cargo pockets – which, strictly speaking, aren't so big as they don't expand outward – are less useful if the backpack's hip-belt is used. The hand gaiters can be cut off if you don't like them, and if you do like them you'll be impressed by how the Swedes have managed to make hand gaiters that almost don't smell of sweat.

The Gore-tex Pro membrane works incredibly well for backcountry and freeskiing, and the jacket was impressive in all kinds of weather and varying levels of activity.



However, perhaps most impressive is its durability. After a winter's use with more than fifty days on skis it doesn't have the slightest indication of wear. All the tape is in place, the zips are 100% and the jacket quite simply looks like new. Impressive.

Price: NOK 6,500

Weight: 774 gram (size L)

Elevenate Bec de Rosses pants

Even if the name is different, these are the pants that belong to the above jacket. There is also a jacket called Bec de Rosses, which is somewhat shorter than the model we tested.

The pants are also in three-layer Gore-tex Pro, with the same smoothish outer fabric in nylon. They have a detachable bib and braces, which can be fastened to the snowskirt in the jacket. We tested the large size and the pants themselves fitted me well, but not the detachable bib and braces. I was quite simply too fat for this part of the pants. Fortunately this was never a big deal, with a backpack it's easy to close the gap between the jacket and pants, even if the pants aren't particularly high-waisted.

Cargo pockets on the thighs – again, these are the type that don't expand, one rear pocket, gaiters, a long zip on the side of both legs and reinforcement at the bottom of the legs are among the most important details. The zip ends at the ankle, where there's also a press stud in the inner gaiter. These are handy, but can also be trodden on and thus ruined.

The trousers are also impressive in their fit, allowing everything I exposed them to in the way of movement: park skiing, crashing, uphill slogs and not least – walking with my skis on my backpack in steep, deep snow. The great durability also applies to the pants, but some marks from steel edges are unavoidable. All the zips, seams and taping made it through the winter without a scratch.

Price: NOK 5,000

Weight: 698 gram (excl. bib, size L)

Overall, Elevenate has delivered a set of cool, hardwearing freeski clothes that are also excellent for the backcountry, and almost everything else a freeskiier come up with to use them for.

<http://www.friflyt.no/Ski/Test-Elevenates-nye-frikjoeringsklaer>

