

# First Test

NEW KIT GETS THE TRAIL TREATMENT



## LIGHTWAVE S10 SIGMA £499

Does Lightwave's new X-Text flysheet make this single-skin tent a winner inside and out?

The holy grail of backpacking has always been to find the ultimate lightweight shelter, while maintaining the protection campers need from rain outside and condensation inside. Lightwave's Sigma S10 features a new X-Text fabric flysheet that's been developed to do just that, and there's no need for a separate inner and outer, which should result in a lighter, more spacious and easier-to-pitch tent.

Lightwave's X-Text fabric is waterproof, breathable and features an activated carbon coating on the inside, which absorbs humidity as it condenses preventing moisture droplets forming on the inside of the tent. This process also creates a larger surface area for the water molecules, which allows them to pass more easily through the waterproof breathable fabric to the outside. The claim of the manufacturers is that X-Text fabric is far better at managing condensation in single-skin tents than other

PU coatings or microporous membranes, such as Event or Gore-Tex fabrics.

X-Text fabric is being used in Lightwave's two new tents, the S10 Sigma featured here for one-person use and the S20 Sigma for two people (£599). Pitching is simple as there are just two main poles which slide through sleeves that extend around the outside of the flysheet, plus a short cross-pole. The ends of the main pair of poles locate into eyelets around the base. This worked fine but it would be slightly easier to pitch if there was a pair of eyelets for each pole end, or a ladder-lock adjuster, because with cold, wet hands on a windy day it's a tight fit. Just six pegs are needed for the basic pitch and I found this to be stable, but guy lines and additional pegs are provided if more stability is needed.

There's a porch on one side with a zipped entry which works well, but it would be good to have had a double zip puller on this, so it could be opened from the top or

bottom for extra venting or just a sneaky peek outside. The full-length porch is huge, being 80cm wide, with ample room for a big rucksack without impacting on the access to the inner.

From the porch there is zipped entry through the inner/porch wall to the sleeping area which is big, compared to standard one-person tents, due to minimal tapering of headroom across from the roof as well as steep side walls. This allows you to easily sit up at the porch and change clothing without rubbing elbows with the walls. Some ultra-light campers may think this is too big for one-person use, although most will welcome the extra elbow room.

I used the tent in the Lake District with a typical mix of weather conditions that included dry and still and wet and windy nights. It didn't leak, but during wetter conditions there was a small amount of condensation on the seam seal taping and upper edges of the bathtub groundsheet,



Poles slip through sleeves.



Pole ends locate into eyelets.



X-Text fabric has a silver finish inside.



The narrow design has a wide porch.



The wide porch gives entry to a spacious inner.

which isn't breathable and doesn't have carbon coating. The fabric areas between the seam tape and the groundsheet were, however, virtually dry. On dry nights the inner was dry inside without condensation. So overall I would say this was drier than other single-skin tents I've used with only minimal condensation in wetter conditions, when all breathable fabrics perform less well in terms of their ability to transport moisture from inside to outside.

The other important factor here is the weight, as at 1420g this is not the lightest one-person tent available – and some are lower priced than the S10 Sigma. However, there is more space inside it than lighter tents, it's also more stable and benefits from a quicker and easier pitch.

So there are pros and cons, as with all lightweight backpacking equipment, but Lightwave's S10 Sigma is certainly worthy of consideration alongside other top-quality one-person tents.

**VERDICT** The S10 Sigma is extremely stable and spacious and offers superior condensation control, but it's not the lightest option available and it's also pricier than other quality one-person tents.

- **Weight** 1420g
- **Materials** Flysheet 20d nylon ripstop, X-Text coating; porch wall 30d nylon 6.6 ripstop silicone coated; inner wall 20d nylon mesh; groundsheet 50d nylon PU-coated
- **Inner tent max size** (LxWxH) 230 x 95 x 100cm
- **Packed size** 46 x 13cm

Features	★★★★★
Design	★★★★★
Living space	★★★★★
In use	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★★★
<b>OVERALL SCORE</b>	<b>84%</b>

## TOP PICKS FOR THE TRAIL



### NORRØNA FALKETIND PRIMALOFT60 £179

The Falketind insulated jacket has been created with PrimaLoft Silver Insulation to be light, breathable and packable. It can be worn as an outer insulating layer, or as a mid layer, where its lack of bulk ensures freedom of movement. A great accompaniment for the hills.



### EUREKA! DUOTAIRE £100

The Duotaire is a 2-person tent that costs just £100. It weighs a touch over 2kg, but costs just £100. The tent's porch area is spacious enough to store gear or for cooking, and yet it costs just £100. It can be used with the outer for weather-proof camping, or without it for a mostly mesh summer shelter, and it costs only £100. Buy it before they realise they've got the price wrong...!



### LUCI LUX £25

Whether it's to illuminate the inside of a tent, or provide mood lighting during an al fresco wild camping meal, the Luci Lux is the go-to gadget. Packable, inflatable, waterproof and solar-charged, this little lantern is a great backpacking buddy.