

## NEUTRAL-CUSHIONED



### REEBOK AZTREK 2 \$85

**WE SAY** This lightweight update offers a comfortable ride with a touch of stability. Our lab tests show that the cushioning is on the soft side, which is likely due to a thicker-than-average midsole. A consequence of this design is a slightly less-flexible shoe. Fit-wise, the shoe is built on a new last that curves a bit in the forefoot for a smooth toe-off. Overall, testers liked the feel of the Aztrek, and many raved about its cushy ride. Recommended for runners on a budget with normal to high arches.

**WEAR-TESTERS SAY** "The shoe was lightweight and breathable, but the toe box was a little roomy."

—Sarah Ford, 29, East Lansing

"The shoe was comfortable and supported my arch well."

—Jeremy McCallum, 26, East Lansing

**WIDTHS** Standard

**WEIGHT** 11.1 oz (M) 8.9 oz (W)

800-843-4444; reebok.com

## PERFORMANCE-TRAINING



### SAUCONY ECHELON 2 \$110

**WE SAY** The Echelon is a big guys' cushion shoe with a snug, welcoming interior. This update is built on a wider last to accommodate orthotics, and it has an extra layer of cushioning that puts the heel much higher off the ground than the forefoot. This design shifts a runner's weight to the forefoot quickly, causing a sensation of being propelled forward. Some testers liked this sensation, and others thought it felt awkward. Recommended as a durable trainer for heavy heel-strikers.

**WEAR-TESTERS SAY** "The Echelon 2 felt comfortable from the start and had the stability and support I need."

—Pete Hohnemann, 62, San Diego

"One of the most comfortable and supportive shoes I have ever worn."

—Jeff Kovan, 48, East Lansing

**WIDTHS** Standard

**WEIGHT** 12.7 oz (M) 10.3 oz (W)

800-365-4933; saucony.com



### K-SWISS BLADE LIGHT RUN \$100

**WE SAY** A light and fast new shoe with an impressive fit, especially over the arch, the Blade moves extremely well with the foot. Because of its low-to-the-ground design and underfoot softness, some testers didn't think it provided enough stability for daily training runs; rather they looked at it more as a race-day or tempo-run shoe. Also, some testers experienced some durability issues with the exposed foam on the outsole. Recommended as a speedwork shoe for lightweight or efficient runners.

**WEAR-TESTERS SAY** "It kept my feet cool, but the tread wore down too fast."

—Mike Matulis, 35, East Lansing

"The shoe conformed well to my foot and had great cushioning."

—Suzanne Cornwell, 25, San Diego

**WIDTHS** Standard

**WEIGHT** 9.8 oz (M) 8.3 oz (W)

888-579-7786; kswiss.com

## WEAR-TESTER PROFILE

### Peter Vuong

26 years old, 5'8", 150 lbs.

Arch Type Flat

Miles per Week 40

Years Running 6

Home Macungie, Pennsylvania

Occupation IT Specialist



**BEST THING ABOUT RUNNING IN THE FALL** "The temperature cools down, and marathon season starts up."

**WHY HE RUNS** "I really want to qualify for Boston."

**RUNNING SONG** "Stronger," by Kanye West

**WHAT HE'S LOOKING FOR IN A SHOE** "I need something breathable with a supportive arch for long runs."

**RECOMMENDED SHOE** Because of Peter's low body weight, the Reebok Aztrek 2 (above) will give him a zippy ride and provide his flat arches with a touch of stability.