

# REALSIMPLE

| LIFE MADE EASIER |

## BEAUTY BUYS THAT REALLY WORK

look great  
in less time—  
here's how

find your  
decorating  
style in 3  
easy steps

21 no-hassle  
meals: less  
shopping,  
chopping, and  
cleanup

10 secrets  
to work-life  
balance





road test  
**UMBRELLAS**

IF YOU'RE A GLASS-HALF-FULL TYPE, A RAINY DAY IS JUST AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE RIGHT ACCESSORY. HERE, NINE WINNERS THAT GUARANTEE EXCEPTIONAL SHELTER FROM THE STORM.

**BEST VISIBILITY****Echo Graphic Geo**

This 70s bubble-style update—with its patterned (yet still see-through) top and clear acrylic handle—ensures the fullest possible hair protection.

**TO BUY:** \$38, [echo.design.com](http://echo.design.com).

**LIGHTEST****Samsonite Ultra Mini**

Tiny and practically weightless, it can live full-time in your purse. A genius zippered pouch makes it easy to stash even when wet. Better for drizzles rather than downpours. Collapsible.

**TO BUY:** \$17, [amazon.com](http://amazon.com).

**BEST BARGAIN****Muji Markable**

Strong and dependable, this basic stick model (as in, not foldable) manages to feel expensive and sturdy while being lightweight. Cheap enough to let the kids use (and lose).

**TO BUY:** \$14, [muji.us/store-for-stores](http://muji.us/store-for-stores).

**BEST IN THE WIND****GustBuster**

A winner from a 2005 *Real Simple* test, with wind-release vents so even gusts of 55 miles an hour can't turn it inside out. A classic hardwood handle makes it guy-friendly.

**TO BUY:** \$35, [amazon.com](http://amazon.com).

**BEST FOLD-UP****Eddie Bauer Spring**

The sturdiest portable we tried, with a tiered construction that keeps it from flipping and a no-slip grip. It opens and closes with one hand—a plus when you're dealing with coffee or car keys. Collapsible.

**TO BUY:** \$19.50, [eddiebauer.com](http://eddiebauer.com).

**PRETTIEST****Pare Berries for You**

We fell for the details on this one—delicate purple piping, a stitched faux-leather handle, and (in place of Velcro or a snap), a sweet fabric-covered button closure. Expect compliments on the street.

**TO BUY:** \$65, [pareumbrella.com](http://pareumbrella.com).

