

Practical Sailor's Top-rated Gear 2009

From systems to safety, these products are pick of the litter.

As each year nears its end, *Practical Sailor* editors find themselves poring over the dozens of products reviewed in the previous months to choose the must-haves for the PS Gear of the Year roster. This year, we mounted that task a little earlier, hoping that readers will benefit from having our top picks for 2009 in time for the fall boat shows (and boat show deals).

As with past picks, the 2009 Gear of the Year awardees are the cream of the crop, and this year, we chose from products evaluated in the November 2008 to July 2009 issues.

NESTING COOKWARE

Magma Professional 10-piece: A good set of nesting cookware means galley gourmets can have all the tools they need, without sacrificing storage space. The detachable handles also mean more pots can fit on the small galley-stove top. The sets' only downside is that they often are more expensive than standard cookware sets.

In April 2009, we reviewed four sets priced at less than \$250. All featured removable handles and were suitable for use on gas, electric, and alcohol stoves. Magma Products' 10-piece set was testers' top pick over offerings from Cuisinart, Galleyware Co., and camping-gear maker GSI Outdoors.



Rather than a storage bag, the Magma set comes with a clever bungee cord that keeps all of the parts together and quiets rattling underway.



All of the cookware sets were evaluated and rated on what the set includes; construction materials; handle construction, function, and ergonomics; storage accessories, storage space required, and whether the sets rattled underway; performance; ease of cleaning; price; and warranty. We also rated the handles on ease of attaching and how securely they attached to the pans.

The Magma set, made from 18/10 stainless steel, was the highest-priced group in this test, but it was the only set to earn across-the-board Excellents in our tests and long-term testing since has supported the ratings, earning the set Gear of the Year status.

The Magma cookware is available with or without Dupont Teflon coating and comes with three saucepans, a 5-quart stock pot, a large sauté pan, and a dedicated 10-inch lid that fits the sauté pan and stock pot. Consumers also can buy pieces of the Magma set individually from the company's website, a bonus for those looking for replacement or extra pieces. Building your own set from the site is possible, but more expensive than choosing a pre-fab kit.