

GEAR

Unplugged? Find your power in nature

Going off the grid doesn't have to mean doing without your cell phone or mini-music player. On the trail or by the pool, you can now turn to the sun, the wind, or your own muscles to stay connected. These **portable chargers** use clean energy but take minutes or hours to juice up. Luckily, most store power so you can load at leisure and charge any time.

- Let the wind spin the blades of the palm-size 4.3-ounce **HYmini** (above, center) to convert nine to 40 mph gusts into longer battery life. Add a HYmini solar panel, bike holder, armband, or crank generator. \$50. hymini.com.
- Sleek enough to slip into your pocket, the 2.1-ounce **JuiceBar** (above, right), powered by sunlight, can put out enough energy for 15 hours of MP3 music or two charges of a cell phone. \$43. (866) 222-0030, cableorganizer.com.
- The 24-ounce **Joos Orange** (not shown) is two-thirds



- the size of an iPad and can store enough solar input to replenish four smartphones. A hardy outdoor companion, the Orange can also survive a tumble or repel a sudden rain shower. \$100. (408) 369-1727, solarjoos.com.
- It's all in the wrists to crank a shining light or an urgent call out of the 3.3-ounce **SOSCharger** (above, left). Spin the two-inch handle for three minutes to get an hour of bright light or up to eight minutes of talk time. \$25. (800) 761-4505, soscharger.com. — SERENA RENNER

