

## GEAR JUNKIE | PERFORMANCE EYEWEAR

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Despite a dependency on corrective lenses, I'd never considered sports-oriented prescription glasses to be germane for the active genre of outdoor sports I favor. When people mentioned "performance" eyewear, what came to mind were the thick-framed plastic goggles favored by high-school wrestling teams.

In reality, eyewear companies have been developing high-quality, durable and sleek prescription glasses for a long time. Oakley's Half Jacket, for example, is the company's best-selling sunglasses model, and it's avail-

able with just about any kind of lens prescription.

Oakley offers two lens shapes and 18 lens hues for its prescription Half Jacket glasses. You pick the clear, amber or dark lens that will best accommodate the anticipated conditions. The lenses are removable and interchangeable; you can buy multiple lenses for varying environments or swap them out for nonprescription lenses when you want to wear contacts.

I put a Half Jacket pair to the test while mountain biking and orienteering during the course of a month. Initially, the glasses were overwhelming to my eyes and were uncomfortable to wear

for more than 20 minutes. Oakley warns about this in the Half Jacket's literature, saying that its optics provide an unusually wide field of vision and enhanced peripheral clarity that may require a period of adaptation.

It took me four or five days to get used to the glasses, but now they are sharp, clear and comfortable for long periods.

Design-wise, the Half Jacket is a solid model that seems to glue to your head. Even after a couple hours of running through the woods on a tough orienteering course, the glasses remained comfortable. I climbed over logs, thrashed through thorns and trudged in swamp muck up to

my knees, and the glasses never fell off and barely even slipped on my sweaty face.

Prescription glasses are never remarkably affordable, and the Half Jacket follows suit with prices that start around \$300. To buy the glasses, you must work with an Oakley-affiliated eye doctor who can take your prescription and order the frame and lenses from Oakley. The company provides a dealer-locator section on its Web site to guide you to affiliated doctors near your home.



**Price:** Oakley Half Jacket, frame only, \$130; prescription lenses range from \$165 to \$245 per pair.

**Contact:** Oakley Inc., 1-877-619-0312, [www.oakley.com](http://www.oakley.com)