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JULY 2013





During the 19th century, a sailor from Gloucester, England, stitched a widebrimmed, elongated cap out of oiled canvas—the sou'wester.



In 1883, American electrician Charles Fritts used selenium and gold to make the first solar cell. It couldn't generate power, but it was used in early cameras as a light meter.





This summer, Outdoor Research releases the Force 9 Sombrero (\$75; outdoorresearch.com), a slightly more stylish, Gore-Tex-equipped version of the classic cap.



Brunton's Explorer 20 (\$260; bruntonoutdoor .com) has six solar cells that make enough juice to charge a GPS, a DSLR, and radio batteries in about an hour. It also weighs 15 ounces and folds up to the size of a magazine.

