



the BEST RIGHT NOW

The Best Lightweight, Umbrella, and Travel Strollers of 2018

By TJ Donegan



If you're on the hunt for a compact, lightweight stroller—sometimes referred to as an "umbrella" stroller—we think the best is the Kolcraft Cloud Plus ([available at Amazon for \\$69.99](#)). Though it's more of a lightweight standard stroller than a true umbrella model, it is maneuverable, lightweight, costs less than \$70 on sale, and yet has features we typically expect to see only on larger, more expensive models.

How do we know it's the best? We've spent months researching [every single stroller on the market](#)—over 230 of them—and have tested more than two dozen in person for things like maneuverability, ease of use, build quality, and to see how well they fold up and store when not in use.

For lightweight and umbrella models, this means placing a particular emphasis on how well these things fold up and store. For most people, a lightweight model like this is a backup, or something you take on trips. None of the ones we tested hold a candle to our favorite stroller—the [Baby Jogger City Mini](#)—but they are ideal if you don't need a full-size model or just want a low-cost backup.

I'm a parent of a little one, and I know sometimes you just need a way to get your kid from Point A to Point B. The models we tested are perfect for that. Most cost less than \$100, weigh less than 15 lbs, and fold down to a relatively compact size—or at least a long, narrow shape that's easy to store. There are exceptions, of course, but to find out about all the models we tested and which ones we think are the best, read on.



J is for Jeep North Star Stroller

The J is for Jeep North Star wasn't our favorite lightweight stroller, but it was comfortably in the middle of the pack with simple assembly, an inoffensive design, and a sturdy frame for a lightweight model. It folds down neatly into a true umbrella shape, and it weighs just 10 lbs, making it one of the lightest that we tested.

It's also one of the most affordable, frequently dropping below \$40 online. Despite this, it comes with a couple of extra like an included cup holder (which is deep, if a bit wobbly) and a carrying bag that can hang off the back for extra storage. You'll need it, because the underseat basket may hold a blanket and a few toys—but that's it.

In our testing we found the stroller does fold down to be quite compact, though it's a bit tricky to fold and the small wheels—while aiding portability—had trouble with obstacles. It falls a bit behind our top picks because the harness doesn't go over the shoulders and the seat doesn't recline, so younger children may not be as comfortable as with our top picks. It also only comes with a 90-day warranty, which is skimpier than the competition.

But if you're looking at the Cosco and want something that offers just a bit more without stepping up to the more expensive models, this reliably splits the difference.

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\$49.99 Walmart

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\$49.99 Hayneedle

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