

DEBUT

Sole Revival

The minimalist marathoner's mantra? Less is more. Ah, but the making of the Minimus, New Balance's ultra-lightweight road shoe, was anything but simple. Nearly 100 runners—recreational and pro alike—helped perfect the kicks in the company's Sports Research Lab in Lawrence. The result is a 6.6-ounce sneaker (8.2 ounces for the men's) with incredibly smart details. A widened toe box lets the midfoot expand when it hits the ground, and a thin, flexible sole heightens sensation underfoot—a must for those who want to adjust their form away from a heel strike and into a more neutral position. And while such tech geekery makes us antsy to hit the pavement, it's actually the slick, old-school design that has us lacing up again and again. —ANNE VICKMAN

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