

EYE WEEKLY.COM

HOLIDAY GUIDE



The EYE WEEKLY Holiday Gadget Guide

BY DAVE MORRIS November 25, 2009 21:11

Seems like these days everybody has the same gadgets, whether it's the BlackBerrys in their pockets or the Guitar Hero controllers in front of their TVs. Want to floss in your own way? And now for something completely different....

GPS

A new direction

Feeling overloaded by shiny black boxes? Reduce the clutter by one item, at least, with TomTom's GPS app for your iPhone (pictured above). With six million points of interest, now you can worry about where you're going instead of which gadget will get you there. TomTom app for iPhone, \$99 from iTunes App store.

EBOOK READERS

Paperless tigers

Amazon and Sony face off over Canada's book market

After impatiently watching our neighbours to the south going mental over the Amazon Kindle, it's finally available up here (though, weirdly, only from www.amazon.com, not www.amazon.ca). It remains to be seen whether Canada is Sony Reader turf, since it's been on sale here since last year; it'll be



hard for the Kindle to beat the Reader Touch Edition's touch-screen technology and sexy looks, but the Kindle's 300,000-plus available books might help. Amazon Kindle, US\$259 from www.amazon.com; Sony Reader Touch Edition, \$399.99, www.sonystyle.ca.



TV-TO-PC

Beam it up



Now that you can download some shows more easily than you can figure out which specialty channels carry them (cough, Mad Men), you'll want one of these nifty boxes to manage them. With Western Digital's WD TV Live HD for PCs or Apple TV for both Macs and PCs, you can access your home Wi-Fi network to beam your music, photos and HD video from your computer to your TV. WD TV Live HD, \$189.99 from www.wdc.com; Apple TV, \$259 from the Apple Store.

WIRELESS

Bye-phone

Three ways to challenge the smartphone status quo

1 Get an android. No, this isn't about how to stuff a robot in your purse.

Android is open-source system software, meaning that unlike Apple or Microsoft's super-secret programs, any geek can add to it and make their own apps for the Android Market, which has over 16,000 apps and rising. Right now only Rogers carries one, the LG Eve — a sleek smartphone with a whopping 5.0 megapixel camera — but in 2010, TELUS will introduce the Motorola Milestone, which boasts an impressively high-quality 3.7-inch WVGA screen. LG Eve, \$49.99 with select three-year plans from Rogers. Motorola Milestone, pricing TBD from TELUS.



2 Palm it. The most serious competitor to the iPhone/BlackBerry axis is the Palm Pre, with its touchscreen, its email and Wi-Fi capabilities and the Palm operating system which some say is the easiest of all to use. It's also waaaay cheaper than its competitors, but you don't have to tell your drooling friends that. Palm Pre with three-year contract, \$49.95 at Wireless Wave, or \$99.95 from Bell.



3 Go sci-fi. Remember how people talk to each other via video-calling in, oh, every futuristic movie ever? Well, it's finally here. Bell has introduced video-calling on two of its phones, the LG Xenon (a great budget option with slide-out keyboard) and the Samsung OMNIA II (a sexy little number with DVD-quality video, that's also the official cellphone of the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics, and comes with a decal saying as much). LG Xenon, \$89.95; Samsung OMNIA II, \$199.95. Both prices contingent on three-year contract from Bell.



VIDEO GAMES

Scratch fever



Even if you haven't fantasized about getting on the decks, DJ Hero: Renegade Edition is a kick-ass way for gamers and non-gamers alike to get inside the hip-hop and dance tunes they love. Packed with exclusives from Jay-Z and Eminem plus the ability to mix and mash up tunes within the game, you'll be fiending for a residency on Richmond Street by the time you're

done. DJ Hero: Renegade Edition available for Xbox 360, PS3, Wii and PS2, \$219.99, www.djhero.com.

HANDS-FREE

Talk to me

If you've ever fantasized about reading your email while driving (because you're not one of those lunatics who type or text from behind the wheel, right?), IMS's iLane has answered your prayers. Plug it into your smartphone, and you can read and reply to your emails and text messages using voice commands. Speak clearly, though, or that steamy text might end up in your mom's inbox. IMS iLane, \$399 from Bell Mobility stores and www.ilane.ca.



WATCHES

Out of time

Q: What do you call a watch with no hands?

A: Stylish as hell. Officially, though, it's called the Ibiza Ride by its creators, Hong Kong firm 01THE ONE, who've come up with a unique LED system for telling time. Don't be surprised when people start asking you where you parked your teleporter. 01THE ONE Ibiza Ride, \$249.95 from Blue Banana, 250 Augusta. www.bluebananamarket.com.



VIBRATORS

FutureSex/LoveTouches

It seems like a paradox, but sometimes nothing's hotter in the bedroom than a well-placed ice cube. So when you're kicking it solo, Touché's Vibrating Ice Massager



will bring back memories of the best you ever had. Just fill the ice holder with water, freeze, put the vibrating bullet back in and you're ready for a passionate ride to the North Pole and back. Touché Vibrating Ice Massager, \$69.99 from Seduction, www.seduction.ca.



If the idea of sex toys with artificial intelligence makes you squirm, withhold judgment until you try Je Joue's SaSi Intelligent Vibrator. Not only does the British company's flagship product have a series of ultra-realistic patterns for the stimulating movement of its "nub," it can actually go into "learn" mode where you can show SaSi which moves make your love lightbulb shine. Eureka! SaSi, \$160 from Good for Her, 175 Harbord. www.goodforher.com.

CAMCORDERS

Sweet little HD

The season's most jaw-dropping gadgets have to be these pocket-sized HD camcorders. Kodak's Zi8 captures baby's first moments (up to 10 hours of them) in dazzlingly clear and stable 1080p images, while Flip, the OG pocket camcorder manufacturer, has a winner in the UltraHD (pictured), which has a super-easy-to-use interface and can take AA batteries — always good in a pinch. Kodak Zi8, \$189.95, www.kodak.ca; Flip UltraHD, \$249.99, www.theflip.com.



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