

TECH KNOW

Better living through gadgets.

by Michael Allen

Dick Tracy 2004

Long before every kid had a cell phone or was even allowed to use the phone, two-way radio wristwatches were all the rage, at least in the funny pages. Recalling the days of Dick Tracy, the Audiovox GMRS200W is a new two-way radio wristwatch with a two-mile range. The high-tech ticker boasts 22 channels of frequency, works off rechargeable batteries, and includes an LCD screen and interchangeable wristband. This little gadget is perfect for catching criminals like Pruneface, or simply telling the prune face you're married to that you need a few more minutes in the bathroom alone with the latest HUSTLER. Go to www.Audiovox.com or call (800) 645-4994. Remember, you have to buy two of them, or you'll be talking to yourself.



Singin' in the Shower

Do you prefer to warble your favorite tunes in the privacy of the bathroom, far from your fellow humans? First of all, thank you. Secondly, meet the CD Shower Companion, a water-resistant device that can be hung from the showerhead or a curtain rod, and plays all CD formats (including CD-RW and CDs encoded with MP3 music). It also has an AM/FM digital tuner and doubles as an alarm clock outside the shower. Best of all, the control buttons are easy to push if your slippery fingers are covered in soap. You can find the CD Shower Companion at Sharper Image stores, at www.SharperImage.com or by calling (800) 344-4444.



One for the Road

When you take your family on your next summer vacation (a/k/a road trip from hell), be sure to bring along Audiovox's spiffy new entertainment center to pacify your bored passengers. The Audiovox VOD 806 video system attaches to the roof of your vehicle and hooks up to the power system just like a radio. This drop-down wonder features a built-in DVD player, TV tuner, an eight-inch screen and an A/V input for gaming systems. To ensure that your kids don't drive you crazy with incessant noise from their video games, this system also includes a transmitter for wireless headphones. To find out more, go to www.Audiovox.com or call (800) 645-4994.



Here Comes the Sun

The sundial has been around for centuries, but who the hell knows how to read one these days? Enter the new Digital Sundial. Designed and built in Germany, it looks just like a digital clock, but operates without electricity and has no moving parts. Sunlight filters through two "masks" in the shape of numbers that show the current time of day. The solar-powered clock updates its display every ten minutes during daylight hours. You can either mount it on the window or a tabletop. To order yours, turn on that electrical thingamajig called a computer and go to www.DigitalSundial.com.



Pod People

The iPod has become one of the most popular electrical devices since the vibrator, and now the folks at Apple have come out with a smaller version of this musical marvel: the iPod mini. This tiny music box weighs just 3.6 ounces, is smaller than a cell phone and can hold up to 1,000 songs. Available in five colors—silver, gold, pink, blue or green—the iPod mini is able to transfer a song per second from a Mac or Windows computer using a Firewire or USB 2.0 connection. In short, it's the RIAA's worst nightmare. How can you resist? To order yours, go to any Apple store, www.Apple.com, or call (800) MY-APPLE.

