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“ We are incapable of thinking outside our underpants ” AA Gill

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From Times Online

December 3, 2007

The 12 best gadget gifts this Christmas

There may be just one or two really big advertising campaigns for 'must have gadgets' this Christmas, but what do you get for determined early-adopters who have already got an iPhone and a Wii? Here are 12 festive suggestions

Michael Moran

12: Humax LGB-19DZT Computer monitor / TV £349

A home office can be a slightly depressing thing, acknowledging the steady erosion of our work/life balance. Perhaps you can redress the issue slightly by buying the workaholic in your life a computer monitor that is also a High Definition television with a solid, punchy soundsystem. While the gadget fanatic is working, he can enjoy the full majesty of Times Online's podcasts and when he takes a break he can recharge his batteries with a relaxing half hour of *You've Been Framed*.

11: Funkix electronic soccer ball £9.99

The classic Hacky Sack football practice aid comes thundering into the 21st Century with the addition of onboard lights and sounds and a hit counter to document marathon 'keepy up' sessions so that you can't lose count of that record breaking store. A superior stocking filler.

BACKGROUND

- > The 12 best presents for women this Christmas
- > The 12 best presents for men this Christmas
- > The 12 best presents for kids this Christmas
- > ...and 2 things to buy for yourself

MULTIMEDIA

Picture Gallery: The 12 hottest Gadget Gifts

10: Submarine Waterproof Radio £11.95

Listening to the radio in the bath is one of the great pleasures of modern life. Some might say that Poetry Please should only be heard accompanied by the gentle sloshing of soapy water. Even if you don't agree, as a not-too-expensive novelty gift with a degree of genuine utility it warrants serious consideration for those hard-to-buy-for uncles and brothers-in-law.

9: MyVu personal video viewer £229.95

If you have a loved one who likes to watch video on the move they will probably have already shared with you the irritation at having someone craning over their shoulder to watch last night's Eastenders at the bus stop or the shame at having been rumbled watching Justice League on the train. The MyVu ends all that by providing an on-the-move cinema experience for their eyes only. As an added bonus, it lends the wearer a modishly futuristic air.

8: Audible Subscription £7.95 monthly

Not strictly a gadget, but Audible are currently bundling a free iPod Shuffle for new subscribers to their audio book service, which you can give to the lucky gift subscription recipient or keep for yourself as a souvenir of your generosity. With a huge range of available titles (including a monthly audio roundup of The Times) it's a gift that can be whatever the owner wants it to be.

7: Little Tykes Digital Camera £49.99

A treat for the younger gadget maven. Now that they've become accustomed the instant gratification of seeing the image on screen straight after having taken a photo the shorter members of the family tend to clamour even more loudly for a go on the camera. Of course no-one really wants jam-stained fingers on their brand new digital SLR which is why this robust camera made especially for smaller, stickier, fingers will be so welcome at family occasions throughout the year.

6: Roberts Robi radio £50

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much-needed remote control too.

5: Eco Media Player £149.99

If someone you know is torn between gadgetry and saving the planet this latest wind-up innovation from Freeplay radio inventor Trevor Baylis plays video and audio files, displays photos, includes an FM radio and even records audio so that the lucky recipient can doze off in lectures without missing a word. The inclusion of a bright LED torch makes it an indispensable gift for anyone considering the intolerable torment of the dark festival next Summer.

4: DataWind PocketSurfer2 Amazon £179.99

If the punishingly expensive handset-and-contract price of an iPod seems a little too much of a commitment, the PocketSurfer 2 offers a tempting low budget alternative for the determined slacker who wants to browse Facebook under the desk during important meetings or search eBay on the train during the peak 'ugly' gift season just after Christmas.

3: Fujifilm FinePix Z10fd camera £129

The one present that you can be sure will get some use on the day, the newest iteration of Fuji's successful Finepix line combines a pretty respectable 7.1MP image size with a sleekly durable casing in a choice of pleasing colours. Idiot-proof onboard utilities for uploading to eBay and FaceBook mean it's a camera you can safely give to a technophobic relative without condemning yourself to a lifetime of unpaid tech support.

2: The Loc8or £59.99

A simple idea elegantly executed, the Loc8or system consists of a mobile phone-sized tracker and a two tiny tags (with a further 22 supported if required) that the lucky recipient can affix to their valuables to make sure they never leave the party without all the cameras, children and so forth that they started with. The tags can even help locate the tracker when they inevitably make the obvious mistake

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