


{what you need to have, do, and see this month}


Sun Power



When the juice runs dry on your MP3 player, cell phone, Game Boy, digital camera, or PDA, where do you plug in? If you're on a business trip, it's no problem to find an outlet. But that's hard to do on the beach in Maui. Evergreen and ever ready, the **Solio solar energy charger** lets you power up any of those devices wherever, whenever, and for however long you please. With its internal battery and intelligent power-distribution capability, the Solio can harness enough solar energy to fully charge your cell phone or play your iPod for 9 hours. The Solio stores the energy within its own Lithium Ion battery for use when you need it most. If you're a gadget-dependent individual, you can now be outlet-independent and energy-alternative. (\$99 for cell phone version, \$119 for iPod version; solio.com)

— E.M.

Straight Shot




The **Nikon LaserCaddy**, a laser rangefinder that fits in your shirt pocket, assists your golfing accuracy by assessing your distance to the pin with the ocular precision of the Six Million Dollar Man. A simple push of a button pinpoints the exact yardage from your ball to the cup (from 11 to 550 yards), so you can select the perfect club before swinging away. (\$299; nikon.com)

— E.M.

hot must-haves

Life Manager



Go ahead, overpack – the 6.8-ounce **LifeDrive Mobile Manager** from PalmOne can handle it. Four gigs of memory provide enough room for you to load up the device with 1,000 family snapshots and stockpile a bulging bundle of MP3s or video files. And, if you completely forget to transfer that critical document, spreadsheet, or PowerPoint presentation, fret not – the versatile LifeDrive has enough room for that too.

The device also features both Bluetooth and WiFi connectivity, so you can always e-mail, hot sync, collaborate, Bluechat, and (pew!) e-snatch that all-important forgotten file with PalmOne's preloaded WiFile software.

With the LifeDrive, you can carry your whole world in your hands as you travel from business trip to business trip, hotel to airport, coffee shop to vacation spot. (\$499; palmone.com) — Erika Milvy

entertaining
essentials

Raising the Bar

Outdoor entertaining shouldn't require zipping between the patio and kitchen to fill glasses, slice lime, and grab ice. Frontgate's fetching **Teak Outdoor Bar** is a splendid blend of well-dressed form and well-crafted function. The handsome piece of portable furniture expands for larger shindigs and provides 7.5 feet of countertop prep space. Interior storage compartments provide enough room for 20 bottles and plenty of barware, ensuring that your top-shelf liquors, precious vintages, and fancy glasses stay safe from the elements. The sleek, curvaceous matching barstools (sold separately), made of premium teak and stainless steel, beckon homebody reposers and social butterflies alike, and are likely to turn them both into entrenched outdoor fixtures. (\$1,995; frontgate.com) — E.M.



Crystal Clear

Dry or dirty, martinis are all the tastier with the **Godinger Contempo Martini Set**. We love the clean, bold look of the Contempo design, with its straight cuts that emphasize the beauty and radiance of the crystal. This retro-chic set of four martini glasses and a martini shaker is all you need to shake — not stir — things up. (\$49; godinger.com) — E.M.



Wine Finder

The **IntelliScanner Wine Collector**, a Bluetooth apparatus that scans retail bar codes off the wine bottles in your collection and then identifies and organizes them accordingly on your computer, is a product that's strictly for the person who has everything. This oenophile-friendly gadget allows you to digitally organize your vintages by varietal, vineyard, country, type, color, and region. It's the ultimate tool for hosting the perfect wine-tasting event or simply keeping a vigilant statistical inventory. (\$279; intellisw.com) — E.M.



Cool Customer

Keep your party nonstop cool with the **Professional Ice Maker** from Sur La Table. This handy-dandy backyard host's helper churns out buckets of ice, in three different sizes, in just 6 to 8 minutes. In fact, the stainless steel box can produce up to 29 pounds of ice per day, though it can store only 2.5 pounds of ice at any given time. (\$399; surlatable.com) — E.M.



Mix Master

Piña colada or frozen margarita? The new **Double Smoothie Maker** from VillaWare lets everyone at your party have it their way with no delay. This multitasking infuser is a stainless steel mix master that emulates the juice bar efficiently with duel spigots to allow continuous serving, even during blending. The heavy-duty plastic pitchers let you whip, blend, and pulse al fresco, and the 700-watt motors and stainless steel blades mean that while the physiological effects may differ, milkshakes, frozen daiquiris, and yeast-and-soy health concoctions will all go down smoothly. (\$79; williams-sonoma.com)

— E.M.



Turn of the (Cork)Screw

As a rule, a bottle of wine should always cost more than a corkscrew. But the stakes have been raised with the deluxe **VIP Special Edition Rabbit Corkscrew**, the fancy-schmancy ergonomic gizmo that uncorks a wine bottle lickety-split. The sterling silver gadget, a design award winner, is a thing of streamlined beauty and supreme utility. It's now available in a leather and chrome gift kit. (\$125; metrokane.com)

— E.M.



Love This Seat

Every party needs good entertainment and you can't do much better than the **D-Box Quest Motion Simulator** chair or loveseat. Both provide an immersive movie-watching experience with all the rocking and shaking you'd expect from a ride at, say, Universal Studios. Close to 450 movies have been specially engineered to give you an unbeatable cinematic ride, right in the comfort of your living room. (\$5,299; d-box.com)

— Martin Lieberman





go

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Sound for All

Heeding the call of those with iPod-alternative lifestyles, Altec Lansing has hatched an all-embracing update of their ab fab inMotion stereo speakers.

The versatile **iM4 Universal Portable Speaker System** is svelte and stylin' but obliging enough to accommodate an MP3, DVD, or CD player – virtually anything with a headphone jack. The iM4 folds flat for easy stashing in its black sack and features a retractable cable and one of our favorite, if low-tech, features: a nifty no-skid rubberized platform that holds your player firmly in place, even when you're raising the roof. (\$99; alteclansing.com) – E.M.

Music, Memory, and More

What is the **Lexar LPD-800**? It's a premium quality digital music player, voice recorder, FM radio, and 1GB storage device – all in one nimble chameleon. Lexar's flagship gizmo lets you empty your bulging pockets and exhale. The integrated FM recorder and tuner expand content options while the FM transmitter expands the possibilities for listening localities. Although the included Sennheiser ear buds are not the ubiquitous fashion-forward white headphones, those in the know know that superlative sound quality speaks louder than fashion statements. (\$199; lexar.com) – E.M.



BRIAN URKEVIC (SPEAKERS)



traveling tunes

Hi-Fi Wi-Fi

While legions of loyal music fans are shackled to their computers to get their fix, emancipation is nigh. The spry black **Tao Wireless Media Player** from Giant International offers the first real alternative to the ivory dominion of the iPod. By eliminating a middleman device, you can get your music wherever and whenever you want.

Think about it: you're itching to catch the latest *Car Talk* or your favorite underground Podcast. Let the Tao Wireless Media Player automatically scan for wireless hotspots. If there's a connection, then you can effortlessly trash and refresh your song stash, update subscription periodicals, and download radio shows. You can't do any hot and heavy song swapping with the cute Taoist sipping the venti mocha at the next table (that's illegal), but you can show off your high-flying Wi-Fi-ness as you replenish your 20 gig library with content from Napster, Musicmatch, or any of the other subscription services.

In addition, recording capability allows you to "TiVo" your best loved midnight Internet and radio shows, and an integrated full spectrum FM transmitter lets you forgo clumsy accessories so you can be a true gear minimalist. (\$349; taolife.com) – Erika Milvy

kitchen must-haves

The Great Beyond

The **Beyond** family of small appliances by Salton takes your kitchen beyond its limits to create a networked room of appliances. The **Icebox** acts as your command center, providing your Beyond microwave oven, bread maker, and coffeemaker with access to Salton's database of 40,000 recipes. With the touch screen, flip-screen or countertop units, and washable wireless keyboard and remote, you can use the Icebox to surf the Net, watch DVDs or TV, listen to CDs or FM radio, monitor the baby room, and schedule morning coffee – all from the same place. The **microwave** allows you to simply wave a wand across an item's bar code and it will heat to a pretested optimal cooking time. The kitchen has always been the most popular room in the house, and with the Beyond product line, you may never want to leave. (\$1,799; esalton.com)

– E.M.



Hot and Cold

When George Jetson was working late at the Spacely Sprockets plant and Jane's atomic-powered bubble was stuck in bubble-to-bubble traffic, they had an easy fix: tell Rosie the Robot maid to delay dinner. Science

fiction has now become fact with the **TMIO Intelligent Oven**, part fridge, part stove, and part Rosie the Robot maid. The oven connects to Microsoft's Media Center through the Internet or via Web-enabled cell phones, allowing you to control your oven from wherever you are. With its double function-

ality, slow roasting entrées cook while cookie dough cools until bake time. Finally, the world has a techno-tastic wonder-oven that allows domestic goddesses to achieve true godlike sovereignty and multitasking. (\$7,500; tmio.com)

– E.M.



Old-Fashioned Oven

Le Creuset reintroduces an old-fashioned culinary process with its **Doufeu Oven**. The eye-catching fire-red (or blue) cast iron pot has an indented lid that cradles ice to condense the internal steam for slow, low-heat cooking. When steam from the interior of the pot hits the lid, it cools and is converted to liquid, which bastes the food to keep it moist, producing a rich, full flavor. (\$230; lecreuset.com)

– E.M.



Go for a Dip

When Dr. Seuss, not Dr. Atkins, calls the shots, we recommend Cuisinart's snazzy, kid-friendly **Waffle Dippers** waffle iron. This fetching appliance with a mod curvaceous brushed metal design beats the boob tube by enter-

taining and feeding your progeny. The stay-cool housing is safe for junior cooks, and indicator lights and audio tones make helping fun and easy. Tots relish finger food and delight in dousing dippables in syrup and sauces, and dipping cups are part of the included Dipping Station. Young and old should be tantrum-free. (\$80; cuisinart.com)

– E.M.



BRIAN JURKEVIC (BEYOND, LE CREUSET, CUISINART)