

Gadgets of the Future

by William Sutton

A tecnologia cria novos produtos constantemente. Às vezes é só ao procurar presentes - como no dia dos namorados - que nos damos conta da utilidade desses objetos extraordinários. Nosso articulista desbrava os novos itens em oferta (no Reino Unido, mas também na Internet).

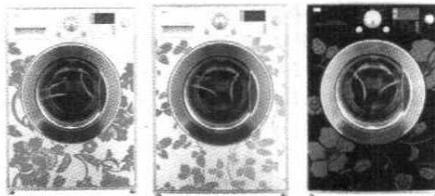
Do you have trouble thinking of a gift for your sweetheart? Perhaps your loved one already has everything. But technology has a wonderful way of creating new things that we didn't know we needed.

The hot talk this year is about nano-products: scientists have begun to use tiny particles¹ to make tennis rackets more rigid than steel², windows that clean themselves and jackets that stop you catching influenza. Soon there will be nano-foods that can release different flavours, nano-robots to clean your house, and nano-dust³ (spying for the government).

We're not going to recommend products like these yet. Scientists are still unsure about health risks of nanotechnology. Besides, nano-treated cotton produced by Cornell University costs about \$10,000 per square metre, but there are still plenty of fun gifts on offer, technological and otherwise. (Please note, prices do not include postage and packing.)

DESIGNER WASHING MACHINE

Tired of household chores⁴? An LG Steam Direct Machine will brighten up⁵ your day. Quiet and energy-efficient, its steam⁶ programme removes creases⁷, while the 20-minute refresh cycle is ideal for things you've only worn once - and you won't need to iron them. The limited edition designer versions are decorated



with flowers, butterflies and geometric patterns⁸.

£800 - £1,500

uk.lge.com

(Model: WD-14576FD)

ROBOT DUSTING

When it's time to dust, why not let a robot do it for you?

The Electrolux

Trilobite ZA2 is

expensive, but

it will do the

housework while

you relax in front of

the television. Guided

by ultra-sound, it returns to its base for recharging⁹ every two hours, so there are no annoying wires to trip over¹⁰.

£1,000

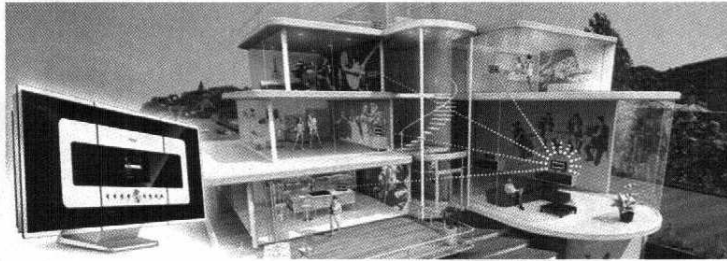
www.electrolux.co.uk



SURROUND SOUND

Would you like music all round your house? Philips have a stylish¹¹ stereo which you will enjoy. The WACS7000 can store 1,500 CDs. Besides the elegant central unit, there is another module

it ure, Available Now



Some of the futuristic products that are available today. Examples include (below and clockwise): eye goggle cameras, zombies (!), underwater cameras, robot vacuum cleaners, designer washing machines and a stereo system that plays music all over the house.

so you can listen to the same music in another room. It's complicated to set up, but worth it¹².

£699

www.shop.philips.co.uk

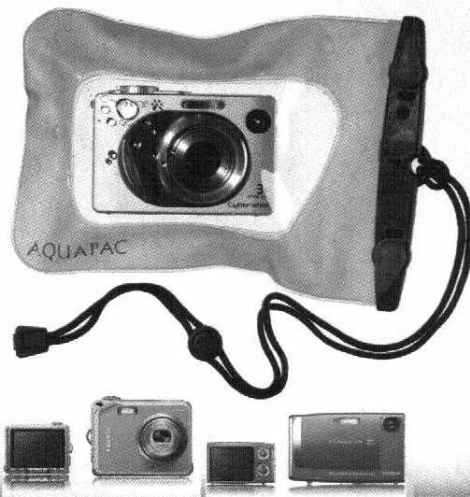
UNDERWATER CAMERA

If you love diving¹³, an affordable option for taking underwater pictures is the Fujifilm Finepix range tucked into¹⁴ an Aquapac Compact case¹⁵. This little camera has a good zoom and a strong battery for all-day diving. It will take clear pictures of coral reefs, surfers and flying fish, whether moving or stationary.

£200

www.fujifilm.co.uk

www.ifsogo.com/AquapacCases

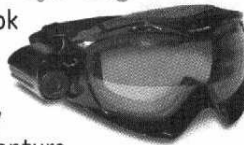


CAMERA VISION

Going skiing this winter? Instead of packing a video camera, why not get Rip Curl Third Eye Goggles¹⁶? These look like ordinary skiing goggles, but inside is a Sony mini-camera. Capture those spectacular runs – and falls – without dropping expensive equipment in the snow.

£250

www.ripcurl.com



STILL STUCK FOR IDEAS?

www.stuff.tv has some great stuff¹⁷, while¹⁸ at www.iwantoneofthose.com you'll find remote-control helicopters, global-warming mugs¹⁹ and crawling zombies²⁰... Happy shopping! □



Glossary

- 1 **tiny particles** - partículas minúsculas.
- 2 **steel** - aço.
- 3 **nano-dust** - nano-pó.
- 4 **household chores** ['tʃɔ:] tarefas domésticas.
- 5 **will brighten up your day** - irá clarear o seu dia
- 6 **steam** - vapor.
- 7 **creases** ['kri:s] rugas, dobras, vincos, (tecidos) amarrutados.
- 8 **patterns** - padrões.
- 9 **recharging** - recarga.
- 10 **no annoying wires to trip over** - sem fios irritantes para serem "pulados".
- 11 **stylish** - elegante, estiloso.
- 12 **it's... set up, but worth it** - instalar é complicado mas vale a pena.
- 13 **diving** - fazer mergulho.
- 14 **tucked into** - inserida em, embutida em.
- 15 **case** - envólucro.
- 16 **goggles** - óculos, viseira.
- 17 **great stuff** - ótimas (opções de) coisas.
- 18 **while** - enquanto, já.
- 19 **mugs** - canecas.
- 20 **crawling** [kro:l] rastejantes.