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This season's hot gadgets

by Douglas Rankine



Gyro Flyer Helicopter
 Unlike the AR. Drone (*below*) this lets you take to the skies (well, the ceilings) without breaking the bank. An indoor helicopter that's remarkably easy to control, and a great way of scaring off any unwanted Christmas guests. (£24.94, amazon.co.uk)



Pogoplug
 For the busy person who simply cannot be without everything, everywhere, all of the time. Throw away your portable hard disks and USBs – this weird little pink-legged box attaches any USB hard drive to the internet, thus giving you (and anyone else you may choose) access to your home or office-based data wherever you are in the world. (£79.99, Firebox.com)

Parrot AR.Drone
 Your own flying machine with front-mounted camera, controlled and viewed from your iPhone. No, really! Don't believe it? Check out the thousands of user-submitted videos online. Comes with indoor and outdoor body kit. If you have a friend who is lucky (and rich) enough to have received one, you can indulge in "flying video games" with the AR.Drone apps for iPhone. (£299.99, parrotshopping.com)





Twilight Tracer golf ball
 Poor light need never stop play again. Conforming to regulation size and weight, the Tracer ball flashes brightly when struck. It carries on flashing for about five minutes, making it easy to locate when hooked into the rough. Battery life allows for more than 1,000 strikes of the ball. (£9.99, firebox.com)

Pure Twilight DAB/FM radio

Love breakfast radio but hate waking up in the dark? The moon-shaped lamp has six coloured LEDs that brighten gradually as your alarm call draws near. You wake up to a semblance of daylight that can help to combat seasonal affective disorder. The snooze button will be a thing of the past. (£129.99, amazon.co.uk)



Canon PowerShot S95 digital camera

This little black number is everything you could wish for in a compact camera: 10 megapixels, a 3.8x wide-angle optical zoom lens, a 3in LCD screen and it shoots well in low light. Simple, understated, slim and lightweight – it has flash, without being flashy. (£299.60, amazon.co.uk)

D-Link Boxee Box

Stream content from your computer to your TV: music, films, online favourites such as BBC iPlayer and YouTube. Files stored on SD memory card or USB drives can be slotted directly into the back of the Boxee. The casing design allows the box to appear to sink into the surface it has been placed on. (£199.99, amazon.co.uk)



25th anniversary special edition Nintendo DSi XL

The oversized DS for oversized kids. The red casing of this special edition recaptures the charm of Nintendo's original Game & Watch LCD handheld consoles from the 1980s. The larger screens and improved sound make playing it even more fun than before. (£196.19, amazon.co.uk)





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Power8 Workshop Plus

For anyone looking to do something a little more constructive with their time over the festive season (and beyond), here's the world's first cordless workstation. It's a bit like a power-tool version of a Swiss Army Knife: everything packs away into its own cleverly designed space, helping to keep your work area tidy. The built-in fast-charger unit can get all your gear primed within an hour, without having to unpack anything. (£350, maplin.co.uk)



Blow the budget!
Sony Bravia NX813 3D Ready HDTV/Sony 3D Blu-ray player

The NX813 has the wow factor in spades. Don the battery-operated specs and 3-D content leaps out with amazing clarity. Watch 3-D DVDs on the S470 Blu-Ray player to complete the ultimate home cinema combo. (£2,999, sony.co.uk; £132.50, amazon.co.uk)

