

The season's weirdest, wackiest tech gifts

December 20 2013, by Bree Fowler



This undated photo provided by Quirky.com shows the Egg Minder, a gadget that wirelessly connects to your smartphone to make sure that you don't eat a bad egg. The Egg Minder is just one of the slightly bizarre gifts available this year for the techie who has everything. (AP Photo/Quirky.com)

It's tough to shop for techies. They already own everything with a plug or rechargeable battery. But fear not, a slew of unique technology gifts have hit the market just in time for Christmas.

Here's a roundup of some of the season's most offbeat offerings. While

these items may seem a bit wacky and bizarre, it's doubtful that the tech enthusiasts in your life own anything similar.

— Call Me Gloves, Hammacher Schlemmer, \$80:

These winter gloves let you wirelessly connect to your smartphone by making the universal "call me" sign. That is, by holding your thumb to your ear, pointing your pinkie finger toward your mouth and folding the rest of your fingers in to make the shape of a phone.

The left glove has a speaker in the thumb and a microphone in the pinkie. Buttons on the glove's cuff let you answer and end calls. There also are conductive fibers woven into the tips of both thumbs and index fingers so you can text and Web surf on a smartphone or tablet without taking the gloves off.

You'll get 12 hours of talk time out of the battery, but you'll need more time than that to convince onlookers you're not crazy.

— Egg Minder, Quirky.com, \$70:

Nobody likes a bad egg. This gadget wirelessly connects to your smartphone to make sure you don't eat one. LED lights show you which eggs in the tray are the oldest and the app's push notifications let you know when you're running low, preventing a last-minute scramble at breakfast time.

— Plush Toast Wireless Speaker, ThinkGeek, \$40:

Speaking of breakfast, does the person you're shopping for like toast? I mean, really like toast? If so, then this tablet holder and speaker might be right for them.

Most tablets fit and plug into this rechargeable device. You can listen to music that way, or connect it to your smartphone or iPod via Bluetooth. Its plush exterior makes it as cuddly as a teddy bear. It's sure to please both day old bread enthusiasts and small children.

— Scout1 Wi-Fi Pet Monitor, Motorola Mobility, \$300:



This undated photo provided by Pop Secret shows the company's Pop Dongle, a gadget that is part of an iPhone game created by the popcorn maker. It plugs into your iPhone's earphone jack and at certain points during the game it releases a buttered-popcorn scent. The device is just one of the slightly bizarre gifts available this year for the techie who has everything. (AP Photo/Pop Secret)

This product, sold exclusively through PetSmart, you keep an eye on Felix or Snoopy while you're away. In addition to viewing furry friends remotely, users can pan, tilt and zoom cameras through their smartphone, tablet or desktop computer.

There's also two-way audio to allow remote conversations between you and your pet, infrared night vision, temperature monitoring and the ability to take snapshots and record video, just in case Fido does something especially cute.

Does Rover like to roam? If so, you can connect and view up to four cameras in multiple rooms.

— Personal Submarine, Hammacher Schlemmer, \$2 million:

If Santa has some extra cash he can buy this two-person submersible that can reach depths of 1,000 feet (305 meters). The sub's transparent acrylic dome keeps adventurers safe and dry as they channel Jacques Cousteau and Jules Verne.



This undated photo provided by Motorola shows Motorola's Scout1 Wi-Fi Pet

Monitor, a gadget that lets pet lovers keep an eye on their pets while they're away. In addition to viewing their furry friends remotely, users can pan, tilt and zoom their cameras through their smartphone, tablet or desktop computer. The device is just one of the slightly bizarre gifts available this year for the techie who has everything. (AP Photo/Motorola)

The sub is powered by battery packs that can supply up to six hours of travel and a maximum speed of three knots. It's also equipped with four external 150-watt quart-halogen lamps to light up the underwater landscape, along with a xenon strobe light and RF beacon alerts to let others know your location.

There's a bit of a learning curve when it comes to piloting these vehicles, so training is included.

— Pop Dongle by Pop Secret, eBay auction, price to be determined:

Does the person you're shopping for find [smartphone](#) games a little dry? Well the folks at Pop Secret think the key to jazzing things up lies in adding butter, or in this case, a buttery smell.

The Pop Dongle is part of an iPhone game created by the popcorn maker. It plugs into your iPhone's earphone jack and when you slather pieces of popcorn with butter in the on-screen game the dongle releases a buttered-popcorn scent.



This undated photo provided by Motorola shows a view displayed by Motorola's Scout1 Wi-Fi Pet Monitor, a gadget that lets pet lovers keep an eye on their pets while they're away. In addition to viewing their furry friends remotely, users can pan, tilt and zoom their cameras through their smartphone, tablet or desktop computer. The device is just one of the slightly bizarre gifts available this year for the techie who has everything. (AP Photo/Motorola)

There's nothing fancy about the game. The scent itself hangs in the air and after a while you can't really tell when the dongle is releasing it.

You won't find these in stores. The only dongles available to the public are being auctioned on eBay. The money goes to the Red Cross. The first sold earlier this month for \$315. At last check, bidding on the second was up to \$152.50 in an auction set to close on Monday.

The third will be auctioned off in bidding that ends on Jan. 2.



This undated photo provided by Pop Secret shows the company's Pop Dongle, a gadget that is part of an iPhone game created by the popcorn maker. It plugs into your iPhone's earphone jack and at certain points during the game it releases a buttered-popcorn scent. The device is just one of the slightly bizarre gifts available this year for the techie who has everything. (AP Photo/Pop Secret)

— Zombie apocalypse supplies, Larson Electronics, various prices:

Everybody needs to be prepared for the day that zombies take over the earth, right? Larson Electronics, which makes heavy duty and industrial lighting, has a collection of products designed for just that.

Offerings include a high-intensity discharge spotlight capable of reaching distances of over 5,000 feet—just what you need to let you know walkers are approaching. There's also a solar-powered LED beacon for signaling other survivors and universal handcuff keys to help you escape from unfriendly members of the living.

© 2013 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

Citation: The season's weirdest, wackiest tech gifts (2013, December 20) retrieved 20 March 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2013-12-season-weirdest-wackiest-tech-gifts.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.