

Christmas Gadget Gifts

Top of the list are likely to be phones, MP3 players and games consoles.

Top of the phone lists is an iPhone, although you are constrained as to the network and type of contract you are forced to use.

Staying with Apple, they also lead the MP3 player league tables. An iPod touch is really an iPhone without the phone (an i ?), but you do still get the same excellent user interface. If you want something smaller and cheaper, there's a new iPod Nano. Finally if you have a lot of music, and/or want to use a loss-less format you can go for a disk-based iPod Classic with either 80 or 160 Gb of storage.

<http://www.apple.com/uk/itunes/>

If you or somebody you're buying for already has an iPod, the best upgrade is a better pair of headphones than the relatively poor ones that originally came with the machine:

<http://www.headphone.com/guide/by-application/ipod/>

As for games consoles, If you have a hard core gamer in the family, they'll want a Xbox or PlayStation, but older members of the family, or those that haven't been interested in gaming before will be much more interested in the Nintendo machines which have been marketed away from the traditional games console buyers, to older people, younger children and women.

One side benefit of the more serious machines is that they can also be use as cheaper ways of getting in to the new high definition film formats. An HD-DVD disk drive can be bought for the Xbox, and the Sony PlayStation will play Blue-Ray disks.

If you want to go down the Nintendo route, there is the bizarrely named, quirky, but extremely popular Wii which is a home unit

<http://wii.nintendo.com/>

Or the portable DS:

<http://www.nintendo.com/ds>

In fact both of these machines are so popular that you may not be able to buy one this close to Christmas.

Why not buy a new Digital Camera to record the Christmas festivities?

Don't get too carried away with Mega Pixels if you're going to buy a compact. The sensors are so small; some of the cameras with more than 10MP tend to get noisy.

Ask yourself, do I want to print all of my snaps to poster size? The only problem with that philosophy is that the cameras with more facilities tend to be the higher end ones with more mega pixels, so you tend to get forced to more pixels if you want a more capable camera. This link offers some good guidance to the best choices:

http://www.steves-digicams.com/best_cameras.html

But if you're going to buy a digital SLR, the sky's the limit, a 21MP Canon IDs mk III, a snip at £5,999, and no, you don't get a lens included at that price:

<http://www.parkcameras.com/ProductDetails/mcs/productID/7416/groupID/8/categoryID/38/v/6951b844-fcb6-4970-ad8f-3ac25c82a1cb>

If your recipient already has a digital camera, buy them some more memory cards for it:

<http://www.mymemory.co.uk/digital-camera-memory>

If you haven't bought any for at least six months, you'll be surprised how much the prices have come down. If you normally buy them on the high street, you'll also be surprised how cheap you can buy on line. But make sure you buy the right sort, there are a number of different types in use at the moment.

Now we've got the sensible choices out of the way. Let's go for some more unusual items:

Starting at the top end of the price range, how about a Gibson Robot tuned guitar which will tune itself for you:

<http://www.gibson.com/robotguitar/index.html>

Keep track of the contents of your wine cellar with a eSommelier Wine Inventory System. You might have to cut back on the wine to pay for it though!:

<http://www.frontgate.com/jump.jsp?itemID=5630&itemType=PRODUCT&path=1%2C2%2C113%2C578&iProductID=5630>

If you were tempted by a Xbox or PlayStation earlier on in the article, how about a Gaming platform, which is a seat equipped with controls for linking to your console and ideal for driving or flying computer games.

http://www.d-box.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=20&Itemid=39

A touch of luxury with your own personal Spa for the home, the Spa Capsule:

http://www.spacapsule.com/home.php?page=Spa_Capsule

Copy all that old vinyl to CD with a usb turntable:

<http://www.iwantoneofthose.com/usb-turntable/index.html>

Finally, we'll finish with the really weird:

Come back Rolf Harris, buy the kids a Stylophone to annoy Granny on Christmas day:

<http://www.iwantoneofthose.com/gadgets-gizmos/gadgets-gizmos-newarrivals/stylophone/index.html>

If you go to London a lot and frequently need to find a toilet, get yourself a SatLav:

<http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2704,2224354,00.asp>

Treat your computer for the festive season with a new gadget:

Buy a new usb mouse (but this one is riding a bike)

http://www.usbnow.co.uk/-Gifts_&_Gadgets-Novelty/c17_65_78/p775/USB_Exercising_Mouse/product_info.html

Or Perhaps a hamster

http://www.usbnow.co.uk/-Gifts_&_Gadgets-Novelty/c17_65_78/p774/USB_Exercising_Hamster/product_info.html