

Ultimate Christmas Gadgets

What fun! It just gets better and better each year. A few years back I was flying back from the Fort Lauderdale Show on America Airlines and was presented with a copy of the Sky Mall catalogue in the seat pocket in front of me and it kept me busy and amused for hours helping the time pass. It gave me the idea to write my Christmas column for the Islander on amusing “Knick Knacks”. In the old days we used to receive a copy of Kaleidoscope with the Sunday papers which also kept us amused for hours illustrating hundreds of “gadgets we never realised we needed”. However these days the Internet is a powerful tool to find so much more.

I have found some great gadgets, well perhaps not so much gadgets, rather bits of kit that you might want to add to your Christmas wish list. Let’s kick off with the **Iguana 29, Amphibious 10 Seater Vehicle**.

This is a new amphibious 10 seat vehicle, which has been designed to make it easy for you to move on either land or sea. Imagine driving home through the centre of Portals in this after a quick morning trip across to Cabrera and back!



For movement on land the **Iguana 29** is equipped with a pair of retractable caterpillar tracks. That can propel the vehicle up to 5 mph, which is fine for launching but might become a little bit of a pain for the drivers behind you on the road. On the other side of the coin, whilst in the water the **Iguana 29**, comes in to its own and is capable of 35 knots!

The only downside is that you will have to give this on a promise at it’s still under development and no price yet.

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I couldn't believe this when I found this. You can now give you husband or boyfriend a real **Dalek** and it is bound to make him really happy! When I was a wee boy of 6, I pretended not to be scared of the **Daleks** on Doctor Who, but by the time I was 10 I really wanted one. My mates and I tried to make one but failed spectacularly. Now for a small investment of about €4,000 you can give one and make a big boy really happy.



The **Dalek** Replica is hand-built to order, using the original moulds and specifications from the BBC Props Department. Officially licensed by the Beeb, it stands at a life-sized 5'3" tall, comes in a range of classic colours and has a whole range of features to play with.

The arms are mounted on ball joints, allowing them to be moved – or wiggled in rage, as was more common. The plunger arm can be extended in and out and the iconic dome can be rotated 360°. What's more, inset casters in the base let you move it around with ease. But you can't ride in it around Mercadona on a Saturday morning. This faithful replica is built in exactly the same way as the ones appearing on TV.



I am sorry ladies but I suspect my next find is another one for the boys. After my obsession with Daleks as a kid I remember getting very excited by Swiss Army knives. Now take a look at this one!

It makes James Bond and Inspector Gadget look pathetic with this jaw-dropping **Wenger Giant Swiss Army Knife**. As awesome as it is ridiculous, this incredible triumph of engineering is packed with 85 fully functional implements and is said to have over 100 functions!



Costing around €600 and meticulously crafted in Switzerland, the **Wenger** isn't exactly pocket-sized and probably won't easily fit in his Christmas stocking. However it comes in a stylish gift box which is probably where it will stay.



An ideal gift for the gadget collector with (almost) everything, the **Wenger** features a wide range of handy tools, and even more that you'll probably

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never use. But that's the fun of it. There are seven blades, three types of pliers and seemingly countless screwdrivers, saws and wrenches. There's even a battery operated torch and a laser pointer with a 300ft range. There's the thingy that repairs golf divots and the doodah that magnifies mineral crystals. You can measure your tyre-tread, whistle and cut cigars. Measuring almost 9 inches in width, the weighty **Wenger Giant Swiss Army Knife** would ruin the line of James Bond's tux, and probably pull the Slam shorts down of any self respecting yachtie. This is a collector's piece for fans of precision-engineered instruments. Either that or a must have item for the tool-less handyman providing him with the complete tool!

I think there maybe some girls who may like this one. It only costs around €120,000 but its worth every cent and an ideal toy for every self respecting yacht with a chest of toys. Take a look at this, the **JetLev Flyer**, the amazing water-powered jetpack. This is amazing. Prepare to be blown away.



The result of years of painstaking R&D, the precision-made **JetLev** allows you to achieve stable, controlled flight as you soar 10 metres above the water at speeds of up to 35km/h. Best of all you'll look like some kind of unhinged superhero. Jetskis and Ski Bobs are now so uncool.

How does this personal flying machine work? The carbon-fibre **JetLev** is tethered via a flexible supply hose to a separate boat-like unit containing a 4-stroke engine. This whooshes pressurised water into the jetpack, which then generates thrust by nozzle reaction force. It's a bit like riding a pair of high-powered, easy-to-control fire hoses.



Even though the **JetLev** can generate upwards of 500 lb of thrust, its intuitive fly-by-wire digital controls are ludicrously simple to adjust; nozzle angles determine allocation of thrust between lift and propulsion (forward, neutral or reverse); nozzle deflection generates yaw moments, while shifting your weight from side-to-side generates roll moments.

Unlike a regular jetpack, and I'm sure many of you have one; this water-based vehicle is incredibly safe because its supply hose limits altitude. Besides, the only thing you're liable to damage upon hitting the water is your ego.

As I have said this is an ideal toy for the toy chest of every self respecting yacht, for Bond wannabes, water sports enthusiasts and anyone who's ever dreamt of flying.

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My next find is a wee bit cheaper and fun for all. If you enjoy camping and want a bit of fun why take shelter in some dull, conventional tent when you can recreate the Summer of Love in a hippie **VW Camper Van Tent**.

Officially licensed, this stunning **four-man** (or lady) tent is a luxury, **full-size replica** of the iconic **1965 VW Camper Van** synonymous with 60s counterculture. It's so evocative you can almost hear the Mamas and the Papas singing California Dreamin' every time you feast your eyes on its beautifully bread loaf-ish form. You'll be the envy of the campsite!



But there's more to this highly realistic pretend hippie/surfermobile than mere good looks. Just like its vehicular counterpart you can stand up inside. It's also useful in locations where camping is prohibited as it clearly passes as a parked Combi in the car park. It comes in three colours and is only €350!



So, 'If you're going to San Francisco, be sure to take your Vee-Dub Camper Tent...'

I hope you all have a great Christmas and New Year holiday, Santa is good to you, and that together we can spread some wealth and cheer to those less fortunate.

Roger Horner of e3 Systems

For further information on any of the above, please contact us.

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A reader brought to my attention an important point with regard to the charging of electric cars in my column last month. He pointed out, which is quite correct, that most electricity used to charge electric cars in the current life of an electric car is generated by burning fossil fuels ergo electric cars do not reduce carbon emissions.

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