

Gadget Updates

IT Gadgets

When one thinks of gadgets it's difficult not to think, simply, portable this and novelty that. And you'd be right too. That's basically what gadgets are. I could end there, and it would probably be enough, but instead let us go overkill here and take a look at some fun devices, some useful ones and some that I really couldn't see what the point in developing it was, and I thought quite hard about it.

Voltaic Solar Bags

I like these. They charge almost all handheld electronics, even laptops; they're waterproof (which is a good thing in this climate) and they have batteries so you can store whatever power you're not using. Great.

Granted there is one drawback. This is Ireland. I'd imagine you'd wear out the soles of your shoes before you charge your iPod on a cloudy November afternoon. But every little bit of environmental trickery helps I guess. Available direct from voltaicsystems.com.



SpeakWood USB speakers

Ok, maybe not the heart shaped one, but this is actually not the worst idea. You can have speakers on your desk that, for a novelty, have pretty decent sound (I hear) without them being totally obvious. A nice little ornament that is functional too.

Again, available from a good few online gadget shops.



Portable Projectors

Let there be light and let it be light. Portable projectors are very useful devices that seem to break the current mould of visual displays where the bigger your TV the better. Don't be fooled by the size though, some of these little gems are very powerful and, while they may not be perfect for the match or the home cinema, if it's a presentation in a tight spot you're after, these are definitely the inanimate objects for the job. Some even come with built in memory and can connect to all types of devices from laptops to phones and portable media players.

Try the 3M MPro150 or the Optoma Pico Projector, both available from komplett.ie.



iHat

Slap a lower case 'i' in front of a word, then think of the product. That's pretty much what happened here. Just buy a hat and some headphones. Some things were absolutely never meant to be hybridized; this product is just trying to force something that simply isn't natural.

If you really want one just Google it, most online gadget shops like gadget4all.com carry them.



Google App Store:

It seems that Google is gone into overdrive with its new ventures lately, what with Google Buzz, Google Wave and the Nexus One a while back. Now we're hearing reports that Google is set to announce an app store aimed at businesses. The plan would appear to be to sell software built by third party developers to complement Google's current apps such as Gmail, Docs etc. The app store would most likely follow the popular trend, being similar to the iTunes App Store or the Android Market. No shock there then. This does seem to be a highly lucrative format for the likes of Apple, so why wouldn't Google try to get in on the action.

Google already has something similar, in its Solutions Marketplace, but it is likely that the app store would be better integrated with Google's other consumer products. It will definitely be something to keep an eye on.