

top gear: going digital

There's no doubt about it, the digital home is on its way. Everywhere you turn it seems a new device has hit the market aimed at making your domestic life easier. We check out the latest clever gadgets, ranging from intelligent bins to James Bond-style wristwatches



← Auto-bin

Intelligent bin

Take the strain out of throwing out trash with the Auto-bin. This smart device has a sensor in the lid which automatically opens when you hover nearby to throw something away. It comes in three finishes – grey plastic in 20 and 27 litre capacities, and mirrored and satin stainless steel in the 50 litre size.

■ Cachet Homewares: 01932 834 610
■ from £75

↓ Sequoia GPS Smart Antenna

USB GPS mouse

A mouse that can point the way is what's on offer from Sequoia's GPS Smart Antenna. This model can be plugged into any device with a USB interface to help you find your destination. It's bundled with PC and PDA mapping software, although strangely the PC version won't work with Windows XP. Cables are also available for those of you with the right car to hook it up to, so you can make use of the device on the road.

■ www.sequoia.co.uk ■ £99



← Braun Activator 8595

Electric razor

Who would have thought mathematics would have played such an important role in shaving? But the foil on the Braun Activator is designed to a tessellated pattern that mirrors the random hair growth of the face and neck. That means less stubble with fewer strokes and thus less razor burn. This clever shaver even cleans itself while it's recharging.

■ www.braun.com ■ £185



→ LAKS Memory Watch

Wristwatch with memory

James Bond eat your heart out. This watch might not contain bullets, but it does have up to 128MB of USB-compatible flash memory. So there. The idea is to provide you with a simple means to carry data between home and office, or just a place to keep it safe next to the palm of your hand. It is available with 32, 64 or 128MB of memory.

■ www.thememorywatch.com ■ £35



↑ JVC LCD TV

LCD TVs

JVC has a new range of LCD TVs. There will be four screen sizes in the range – 17, 23, 26 and 32in and all will have a built-in TV tuner, a maximum resolution of 1,280x768 pixels and offer 16:9 widescreen. The two smallest models have PC input as well as two Scart connectors, while the larger devices have two Scart connectors and a component input socket.

■ www.jvc.co.uk ■ Price TBA



← Benq PE8700

Digital projector

For the well-heeled home cinema fan, Benq has just the thing – the PE8700 digital projector. Designed for use in the home, the device has a 16:9 screen at 1,280x720 resolution; 2,000:1 contrast ratio and whisper-quiet operation at just 30dB. It uses DLP (digital light processing) to ensure images are sharp, even in a brighter room. A host of controls help you make your movies look their best.

■ www.benq.co.uk ■ £4,582