

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

A Few of My Favorite Gadgets



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Man, I love my gadgets. I love them so much I forced the *Mobile PC* staff to figure out what the 100 very best gadgets were, write a little something about each one, and track them all down so that we could take pictures of them.

Hey, they could have had a worse job. The other idea that we ended up nixing was to rank the 100 best sauerkrauts. Fortunately for our lower intestines, we ultimately deemed that story “not quite mobile enough.”

Anyway, while I’m unhealthily obsessed with TiVo and the Polavision camera (check out my fond remembrance on page 62), I had a few more essential gadgets on my personal list that, for whatever reason, didn’t quite make the cut. I figured I’d share.

DREMEL HIGH-SPEED CUTTING TOOL.

Whether it’s filing down nails or carving up those troublesome bodies piling up in the garage, the Dremel has been an essential gadget in the Null household for years. Try using the grinding stones on metal for impromptu fireworks. Great for kids.

COCKTAIL SHAKER.

For martinis, cosmos, or casinos, you gotta shake the hell outta that drink to get it mixed properly. Try making one without a shaker: The drink sprays all over the kitchen when you shake the glass!

EMI FINGER RING CUTTER.

So I put on a few pounds after I got married. I can deal with that. But when I found I could no longer wedge my wedding ring off my finger, that’s when I started to panic. I heard all the folk remedies: butter, soap, Crisco, and even a dental floss technique that my doctor devised, but nothing would get

that ring off: It had to be cut. But much to my surprise, no one cuts off rings for fear of taking off fingers along the way. Only emergency rooms have the tools to do it, and no way was I going to pay that kind of cash for such a simple job. It took months before I realized I could do the job myself by buying a cutter online — they cost less than 10 bucks! The device is fearsome, with a spinning blade powered by a thumbscrew, but I was undaunted. After 20 minutes of work, I had that sucker off. Fabulous. Now I can eat all I want.

VACUVIN WINE SAVER. Sticking a cork in your half-empty bottle of wine is about as effective at keeping it fresh as the crisper in your fridge is at keeping your bok choy from wilting. You gotta suck the air out, folks. The Vacuvin gets it done in about 10 seconds, letting your vino last for days instead of hours.

SPORK. It’s acceptable as a spoon and awful as a fork, but man I love these little bastards, especially since they often come packaged with a Wet Nap, which God knows I need more often than I ought to.

LAZY SUSAN. Whether I need salt and pepper, a B vitamin, or a hit of Advil, I simply reach for my vintage silver lazy Susan and give her a whirl. It’s as close as my wife will let me get to another woman, and my, how I love her.

BICYCLE PLAYING CARDS. It’s antisocial to listen to music and play video games when you’re stuck in the airport with your friends. That’s when we break out the cards and play some old-school poker or gin. I’ve always got a deck of cards in my notebook bag, along with a set of dice. Because you never know when a craps game is going to erupt.

The real top 100 starts on page 56. This is one big list you aren’t going to want to miss. ☹

