

Digital Times is a "for eCommerce newsletter reporting on the development and/or availability of interactive products and services."

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*The International Consumer Electronics Show OPENS In Las Vegas!

Well, once again, I have arrived at *MECCA* for those industry followers of consumer electronics ...CES, the launchpad of new products and services that will drive the digital economy. Reminds me of the movie, 'Amadeus' when the King of Austria is asked his opinion of Mozart's opera and the King replies, 'too many notes.' Well, as usual, at CES there are 'too many products.'

No **Gibson** tent this year. Seems it was just a few years ago that I interviewed the legendary **Les Paul** in the Gibson Tent just after his demonstration of Gibson's new, *digital* Les Paul Guitar. Paul is gone now--like the tent. Today, the economic downturn and burden upon attendees is evident--there is a \$200 fee to replace lost badges, press kits were in short supply, CES ran out of press bags with straps on the 1st day, there was no bottled water in the Press Room, either--just an 'upside down' jug and some foul tasting paper cups. ;(

This product, a Christmas Gift from my son to my husband, was on the showroom floor at **CES**. We hadn't bothered to install it yet and I had my doubts as to the usefulness of **T.V. Ears!** The rep assured me that one end plugs into the unit and the other into the 'output' on our T.V. Well, we discovered that two splitter's were needed as there was only *one* output jack on the back of our T.V.. Amazon had them for .69 cents plus \$2.29 shipping. Installation was a breeze and now hubby can listen to 'whatever' as loudly as he likes and I don't have to hear it. This has proven to be extremely handy in many ways. When I go to bed earlier than he does? No more having to *hear whatever he's listening to, on T.V.* . ;~)



Carnegie Mellon University QoLT Foundry

My goal is to report on nifty new gadgets and services that perhaps mainstream media *will NOT* mention.

For example, This prestigious private research facility in Pittsburgh, PA [currently consisting of 7 colleges and independent schools] is working to improve the life of the modern consumer through their **Quality of Life Technology Engineering Research Center**.

For example, they have developed **NavPrescience** personal navigation technology -- think GPS on steroids, that adjusts to the 'route habits' of the driver, for added benefit. This is great for people that avoid freeways, for example. The device picks up on that, and will suggest other alternative routes that *also avoid* freeways.

Other products: A small, digital **Lightweight material detector** for placement-aware mobile computing [especially applicable for blind people] & a 3d Video Phone by **Caremedia**.

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iHug iPhone Holder



Tucked near the very back of South Hall, Upper Level, was a display of attractive and useful iPhone accessories by TREXTA...



One of the fantastic things about a consumer electronics show of this magnitude is that you never know what 'gems' are on display in the next booth--large or small. To my delight, I came across TREXTA who has a fantastic array of snap-on leather iPhone 3G and 3G S, iPod touch and iPod classic cases. Among the 14 themes currently available, there are embroidered designs, elegantly tailored patterns, a cover that looks like a baseball, and solid color leather, some with a metal belt clip!

The iHug comes in patent black, red, blue, white, pink, purple, non-patent white. When turned upside-down for optimum camera position, holding the head of the iHug as though it were a 'tab' steadies the iPhone magnificently ;~) As all of you iPhone users know, it is all too easy to have one's finger over the camera lens while trying to grasp and steady the phone ...well, no more.

Availability: Amazon.com / \$24.99 via myGearStore
10% off if you buy 2 or more
15% off if you buy 3 or more

I purchased three (3) iHugs; one red, one black and one white. Two have already been sent as gifts. An Amazon Prime member, I received a 15% discount, 2-business day shipping and pay no sales tax. That's a better deal than going to myGearStore directly. Pretty Sweet.

-editor



VIDEO TAG

A crowd was gathering around the wearer of these -- talk about a way to stand out!

Replace your boring old name tag with--you guessed it! A personal digital VIDEO TAG from Sun Group [Netherlands]. The content displayed on digital signage screens can range from simple text and still images to full-motion video, with or without audio. Promoted as an eye-catching, state of the art 'hip' and superior way of getting your message out to your clientele, the display screen/LCD panel is 2.4 inch and support a Mini SD card. Memory and rechargeable Li-ion battery are built-in and connectivity is by mini USB cable.

-editor

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