



GIMME

Dreaming of a tech Xmas

Whether you're compiling your shopping list of gifts for family and friends, or simply completing your own Christmas wish list, here's our rundown of the best gadget gifts this season:



❑ **Sony Alpha Nex-5 camera:** This is our top pick for digital photography this season. The compact, mirrorless body camera has fully interchangeable lenses, 14 MP and HD video shooting mode. It also has a 7,5 cm LCD screen that adjusts up and down to help frame your shots even at unusual angles. It has a built-in microphone and speaker, and can shoot 2,3 frames/second on continuous mode.

Bottom line: All the bells and whistles that you've come to expect, plus high-quality image capture in a tiny body. The Nex-5K model comes with an 18 mm-55 mm lens and retails for around R8 000. For more: [www.sony.co.za-product/nex-5k](http://www.sony.co.za/product/nex-5k).

❑ **Xbox 360 with Kinect:** Kinect is the latest in motion-tracking gaming devices. This one is developed by Microsoft, and unlike Nintendo Wii and Playstation Move, this doesn't use a controller, but rather infrared to track 48 points on your body and detect and recreate your movements in sporting and adventure-based games.

Bottom line: Family-friendly, active gaming that should keep all but the most hardcore gamers entertained. Kinect, bundled with Kinect Adventures, will cost around R2 000, or R3 700 bundled with the new Xbox 360 4G. For more:

www.xbox-360.co.za/article/119/what-is-kinect/.

❑ **Flip Slide HD camcorder:** Flip are making arguably the best personal HD camcorders on the market and the Slide is their latest offering. This nifty gadget allows you to shoot four hours of 720 p HD. Then plug it directly into your HD-capable TV and enjoy your handiwork. It has a sliding screen for playback directly from the device on the 3 inch screen. You can even customise the design when you buy directly from <http://store.the-flip.com>, though they don't as yet ship internationally. There are a few locally



based online retailers that will source it for you. Try www.have2have.co.za or www.oneshop.co.za.

Bottom line: Simple, stylish video recording device for US\$249,99.

❑ **Bushnell BackTrack:** Hiking enthusiasts and absent-minded car-parkers will love this little device. It is an extremely simple gadget with just one purpose and two buttons. Mark a location and then wander at your will. When you are ready to return, simply walk back in the direction indicated on the screen. Unlike other GPS devices, the BackTrack won't find your hotel or restaurant listings, but its appeal may lie in its simplicity.

Bottom line: simple and practical.

Available from several online "e-tailers" in SA at various prices around the R1 000 mark, including www.man-tality.co.za and www.oneshop.co.za.



❑ **Withings WiFi scale:** Fitness and diet enthusiasts will love this wireless-enabled bathroom scale. It not only looks sleek and stylish, records your weight, BMI and body fat mass, but will also beam your information to your computer or even your iPhone, enabling you to store and track your progress.



Bottom line: At R1 505,71 this is likely to be the most expensive, but useful scale you will ever own. Available locally through Expansys: www.expansys.co.za/withings-wifi-body-scale-195115/.

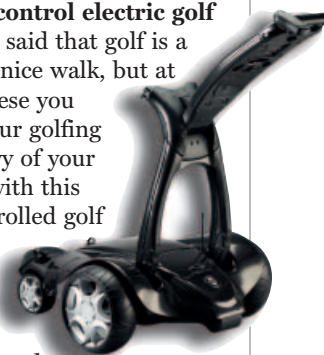
❑ **Hi-Sun beach towel by Hi-Fun:** Granted, towels aren't the most hi-tech items out there, but the Hi-Sun version comes with built-in speakers and a 3,5 mm universal jack for your MP3 player, so you can enjoy your tunes on the beach or at the pool. The towel itself is 100% cotton, and you can remove the speakers to clean it. It runs off a removable lithium-ion battery.



Bottom line: Gimmicky but fun. Retailers for roughly \$75, but no local sellers known. Visit: <http://store.hi-fun.com/it/store/5476-hi-fun/5496-hi-sun>.

❑ **The X5 remote control electric golf trolley:** It has been said that golf is a great way to ruin a nice walk, but at least with one of these you won't be lugging your golfing bag, too. Be the envy of your four-ball partners with this stylish remote-controlled golf trolley.

Bottom line: At £1 200 this is not a cheap option, but a seriously unusual and impressive one. Visit: www.stewart-golf.co.uk/product/X5+Remote/.



Some of the more predictable but still great gifts for Christmas this year are the groundbreaking iPad; its rival, Samsung's Galaxy Tab; and the BlackBerry Torch with BB6 OS.

Kate Thompson