

Useful offerings from electronics show

By **GREGG ELLMAN**
Special to the Star-Telegram

LAS VEGAS — With the annual International Consumer Electronics Show taking over Las Vegas this weekend, an endless number of products are being introduced and are on display.

Many are gimmicks and impractical for daily use, but here are some that caught my attention.

LightSpeakers

The Klipsch LightSpeaker combines efficient LED lighting and wireless ambient sound in a single unit.

It's installed just like a light bulb and works anywhere a standard light bulb is used, including hanging fixtures or floor lamps.

To play music, just connect the included transmitter to any music source (iPod, laptop, etc.), and the sound is wirelessly sent to the LightSpeaker. Each transmitter has the wireless ability to accommodate up to eight LightSpeakers.

In addition to the speaker, each unit contains a dimmable LED bulb, which is rated for 40,000 hours of use and can last more than 15 years.

It will be available as a bundled package with two LightSpeakers, transmitter, radio frequency remote, mini jack to RCA plug cable, lenses and trim for \$599. Single LightSpeakers will cost \$249 each.

Klipsch will have them on klipsch.com this month, with broader distribution slated for March.

Online: www.klipsch.com

External hard drive

If you thought it was a great jump from USB 1.0 to USB 2.0,

Western Digital will help you make the move to USB 3.0.

The company introduced its fastest hard drive ever with the My Book 3 external hard drive.

The new desktop external drive is certified with the SuperSpeed USB 3.0 interface, considerably faster than USB 2.0.

According to Western Digital, the SuperSpeed USB 3.0 interface on My Book 3.0 drives provides transfer rates of up to 5 gigabits-per-second, allowing users to open and save files up to 4.7 times faster than USB 2.0. The company says this can vary, depending on the computer system.

What this means to a user is that it will significantly reduce the time it takes to transfer, open and save large files.

The 1 TB capacity drive is at Western Digital retailers or on shop.wd.com in a USB 3.0 kit (\$199.99) or as a standalone unit (\$179.99). A 2 TB model will be available this month.

Online: www.westerndigital.com

Digital picture frame

Pandigital has an innovative digital picture frame, the Photo Mail LED Digital Photo Frame.

The frame is e-mail-connected and powered by AT&T, which accepts the photos e-mailed directly to its dedicated address without any ongoing service fee.

Anyone who knows the address can e-mail photos to the frame. Once the photos are received, the user accepts them and they are then available for viewing.

The frame comes with the ability to have 300 photos e-mailed to it, and once they are

used, additional photos can be purchased for \$9.99 for 100, \$29.99 for 400 and \$49.99 for 700.

Photos are sent via ATT wireless network without the need of WiFi.

The Snapfish photo service handles the photo management and makes the images viewable on the frame's Snapfish.com account.

In addition, the frame has all the standard features of Pandigital digital frames including a large 8-inch back-lit LED display in 800x600 resolution, 1GB of internal memory and a 6-in-1 built-in media card reader for uploading photos.

The frame will be available this quarter for \$149.

Online: www.pandigital.net

iPod GPS navigation

Dual Electronics' GPS Navigation and Battery Cradle (model XGPS300) turns an iPod Touch into a GPS unit.

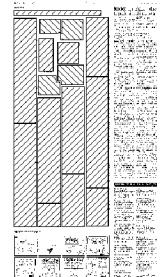
A GPS receiver is built into the cradle, which houses the iPod and also acts as an additional battery source.

Dual's NavAtlas app is included, which gives users turn-by-turn navigation with TTS technology and the latest U.S. and Canada maps from NAVTEQ.

Users will also benefit from many additional features including an amplified speaker, auto-out connections, a Mini USB port and a rechargeable battery.

The cradle works as a handheld device or as an in-car unit. It provides GPS location data to any app that needs it including those for hiking or geocaching.

Expect the device to be available sometime during the



first quarter in the \$179 to \$199 range.

Online: www.gpscradle.dualav.com

Wireless power

You know wireless Internet, but how about wireless power?

Fulton Innovation is the creator and exclusive licensor of eCoupled intelligent wireless power.

Once the wireless power transmitter is installed, a simple device such as a blender or laptop will function like it is plugged into an outlet.

If the device has a rechargeable battery built in, it also will charge while in contact with the transmitter.

Companies such with Motorola, Bosch, Dell and Texas Instruments are working with the company to make some of their products wireless power compatible.

When pressed whether Apple was on board for the wireless power, company representatives would only say Apple would be a very good partner.

Prices depend on the device to be powered. For example, a blender, which has the wireless power receiver built-in, would require a \$50-\$60 transmitter in a countertop.

The transmitter would be able to power high-wattage appliances or any other device with the built-in wireless power receiver.

Online: ecoupled.com

Speaker accessories

Three new portable iPhone and iPod speaker accessories with rechargeable lithium ion batteries have been announced from iHome.

Designed for portability, they let you travel with your music, or you can place it in any room.

The iP48 Portable Rechargeable Stereo Alarm Clock

for iPhone/iPod is in a protective travel case for portability.

The unit also has a flip-up clock display and a time sync feature to set the clock to local time when you dock an iPhone.

The iP48 is expected to sell for \$149 this spring.

With the iP49 Alarm Clock & FM Radio for iPhone/iPod, users will get a unit that features iHome's high-end clock radio functions.

This includes the choice of waking up or going to sleep with music from an iPod, iPhone or FM radio.

The unit can get an audio boost with the inclusion of Bongiovi Acoustics' patented Digital Power Station technology and four neodymium compression drivers.

Expect it out in the spring for \$169.

For those who just want

Coming tomorrow

■ Continuing coverage of the Consumer Electronics Show.

In Work & Money

speakers, iHM79 Rechargeable Mini Speakers are available for \$49. The speaker pair is small enough to fit in the palm of your hand and can be charged via USB.

Users can hook them up directly to an iPod, computer or any other device with a 3.5 mm audio jack and can be collapsed for great portability.

Online: www.ihomeaudio.com

Protective housing

Many people spend several hundred dollars for a portable GPS unit, and Lowepro, a product design company known for its storage solutions for photography equipment and portable electronics, has launched the Navi collection to house these expensive gadgets.

The line has six protective

models, which will be available in February for hand-held and portable GPS devices.

Some highlights include the 3.5-inch Navi Bag to protect a GPS unit in the wilderness.

It has a fast-action draw cord and carabineer to keep the device easily accessible even with gloved hands. The exterior is made of stretchy neoprene with a soft interior fabric to protect the touch screen from dust, scratches and abrasions. A built-in, zippered side pocket holds two AA-size batteries, making the pouch an ideal solution for a long hike.

The Navi Plus has two cases in one compact design.

The main case has two outer side pockets sized for USB and power cords, and mesh pocket for a battery, extra cords or a small manual. It also has a padded adjustable divider to create space for a dashboard/windshield mount.

Fitted within the main compartment is a second removable GPS case with brushed tricot fabric and reinforced exterior, which can be transported between vehicles.

Prices of the six models range from \$19.99 to \$34.99.

Online: www.lowepro.com

Accessories

Scosche Industries has some additions to its iPod/iPhone accessory lineup.

These days, everyone has multiple electronic gadgets needing a daily charge, which is where Scosche's handy reviveLITE comes in.

The unit has been given an upgrade to act as a nightlight, charge and iPod/iPhone.

The design now has an additional USB charging port for other USB-powered devices while charging an iPod or iPhone cable free.

Also new are IDR655m ear-phones with tapLINE II Remote and Mic.

It has an improved noise isolating, which feature 11 mm drivers to deliver brilliant highs, silky smooth mids and a powerful bass.

Scosche placed the head-phone controls where the ear-phone wires split, making switching tracks or adjusting the volume easy.

A microphone for hands-free conversations is on the headphone cord.

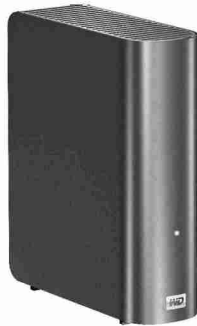
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KLIPSCH

My Book 3
WESTERN
DIGITAL



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