

GEARBOX

All the best and coolest gadgets & gear.

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1. Aeron inspired chair

Price \$224 Website www.milandirect.com.au

The Aeron is the God of Chairs. It sits atop a desk-shaped mountain, giving favours to its followers and smiting unbelievers with back pain and poor circulation. It is the chair, if Jesus were a gamer, that the Son of God would play in.

It's also about \$1500! You could buy a new Core i7 setup for that! But there's an alternative: this 'aeron inspired' chair from Milan Direct.

There's no shame in being honest, and this cheaper version of the Aeron is plenty comfortable. With adjustable lumbar support, back tension, height and armrests, this is the ultimate enthusiast's chair. Whether you're spending hours achieving the perfect overclock or benchmark run, or simply grinding rare drops in your MMO of choice, your arse will thank you for treating it to this mighty chair.

2. Seagate FreeAgent Theatre

Price \$199 Website www.seagate.com

We've always kinda dug Seagate's FreeAgent external drives – they're sleek, convenient, and backed by Seagate's usual drive reliability. That convenience has now been ramped up even further with the release of the FreeAgent Theatre media player.

The Theatre is a neat little docking station you can plug slot your external drive into. It then plays back videos in full HD, lets you run slideshows, or play music from the inserted drive. It's even got a USB port, so you can play stuff off a handy stick – we've got about 60GB of USB storage spread over a couple of dozen sticks around HQ, so we like this. It's a neat alternative to having a network-connected media player, and ideal if a lot of your friends and family have FreeAgent drives – you'll be able to share content cleanly and easily.

3. Creative ZEN MX

Price \$219 Website <http://au.store.creative.com>

There's convenience that sits next to your television, and then there's convenience that fits into your pocket – like the Creative ZEN MX.

This latest MP3 player from one of the flagship vendors of the product features a bright 2.5in screen to look at photos, easy to navigate (and customise!) controls, and it simply plugs into your PC ready to move music around without any fuss.

But what we like most about it is that it features an SD card slot, meaning you can expand the onboard memory easily, swap songs from other users on the road, or even create an entire library of music-loaded SD cards to suit any mood.

Neato.

4. Digishow pocket projector

Price \$399 Website www.digishow.com.au

Here's a neat little toy we saw in action at the recent CeBIT tech show in Sydney. It's a pocket projector designed to work with mobile phones, laptops, portable media players and digital cameras.

It's tiny enough to literally fit in a pocket, and projects sharp and bright VGA images at 640 x 480 pixels in 24-bit RGB colour. What's more, we also saw adaptors for gaming consoles, letting you play your favourite games without a television – a neat little trick that means you don't have to find a mess of televisions for a casual Xbox LAN at a mate's place.

5. Gigabyte GM-M7800S mouse

Price Most likely exorbitant Website www.giga-byte.com

"Once you hold it, it creates outstanding touch and gives you incredible hand feel."

When a product comes across our desk making this claim, you just know it's going to be entertaining at the very least. And we're not wrong.

Gigabyte's latest mouse is an exercise in overstated style over substance – a Swarovski-crystal accented wireless controller complete with stitched leather covering and gold-plated metallic highlights.

Yup. Just the thing I want to see all my hand-sweat soak into. Maybe that's what they mean by 'hand feel'?