

# gadgets

compiled by Niall Magennis

## Two ways to get in style

Get out your old elbow-padded army jumpers, because walkie-talkies are back. The palm-sized, rechargeable TalkAbout 288 from Motorola has a two-mile radius in open terrain and sports more than 300 combinations of frequencies, so it's easy to find a free channel and check with your mates that everything's '10-4'. Best of all, there is no licence required or call charges to pay. With a range of colours and accessories, it's cutting-edge and cool enough to get you talked about too.

**Price** £129 (£109.79 ex VAT)

**Contact** Motorola 0500 500 500

[www.motorola.com](http://www.motorola.com)



## Wrap-around music

If you want an MP3 player to really impress your friends, the Casio WMP-1V has got to be it. The watch has enough memory on board to store around 33 minutes of CD-quality audio. Files can be downloaded quickly via a specially designed, miniature USB port. There's even animated characters with 10 different dance styles. All this and it's water resistant too!

**Price** £200-£250 (£170.21-£212.77 ex VAT)

**Contact** Casio 020 8450 9131

[www.casio.com](http://www.casio.com)

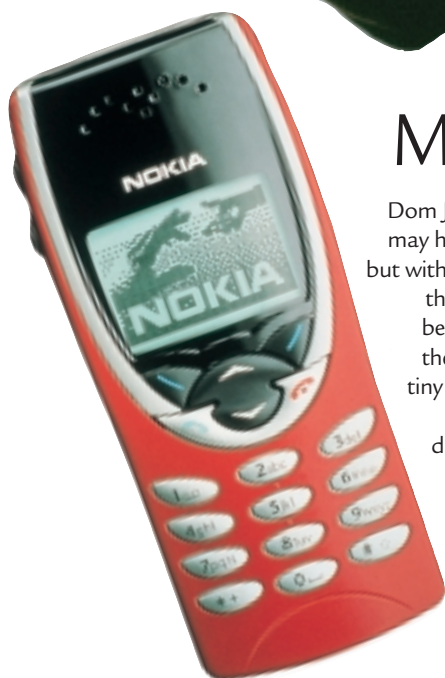
## Mini-mobile

Dom Joly from C4's *Trigger Happy* TV may have the biggest mobile phone, but with the Nokia 8210 you can have the smallest. Measuring a mind-bending 101.5 x 44.5 x 17.4mm, the only problem is the unit is so tiny people won't believe it's not a children's toy. The graphical display shows up to five lines of text and supports picture messaging. Other treats include voice dialling and predictive text input.

**Price** £229 (£194.89 ex VAT) with connection or £500 (£425.53 ex VAT) without connection

**Contact** Nokia 0990 003 110

[www.nokia.com](http://www.nokia.com)



## Room for manoeuvre

If you're frustrated by the storage limitations of most MP3 players, you might want to check out this monster from Remote Solutions. The Personal Jukebox's built-in 4.8GB hard drive has the capacity to store around 1,200 MP3 files – more than enough to cover Mr or Ms Average's entire CD collection. Weighing in at 9.9 ounces with dimensions no bigger than a video cassette tape, it's fine to clip to your belt and walk around, but a tad bulky to take jogging.

**Price** Approx £500 (£425.53 ex VAT)

**Contact** Remote Solutions [www.pjbox.com/](http://www.pjbox.com/)

(only available from the US)

## Super sonic station

Those who think the Commodore C64 was the height of computer sonic excellence have the chance to relive those memories all over again thanks to Swedish synthesiser company Elektron. It has taken the C64's SID sound chip and used it as the basis of a new synthesiser – the SID Station. You'd better hurry, though, as the company only plans to make around 100 units.

**Price** SEKroner: 5,125 or £375 (£319.15 ex VAT)

**Contact** Elektron 00 46 31 772 8110

[www.sidstation.com](http://www.sidstation.com)



## On reflection

We here at PCW are fed up with translucent, garishly coloured mice, so it's a refreshing change to see a rodent manufacturer opt for a sleek, chrome look. The Cromo Mouse from Lindy even has a programmable third button. There's only one real problem, it's not quite as sexy as the Intellimouse Explorer from Microsoft.

**Contact** Lindy 01642 754 000

[www.lindy.co.uk](http://www.lindy.co.uk)

**Price** £39.99 (£34.03 ex VAT)



## Gun control

PC owners who are fans of light gun games haven't had much choice when it comes to light gun controllers. In fact there weren't any available, but Act Labs has changed all that with its Gun System. The company has worked with software developers to ensure that support will be forthcoming and claims that independent developers are working on 'mods' for use with existing titles. A handheld controller that has mouse-emulation comes bundled with the gun for use in first-person-shooters such as Quake III.

**Price** £62.50 (£53.19 ex VAT)

**Contact** Act Labs [www.act-labs.com](http://www.act-labs.com)



## Feel the width

The NEC PlasmaSync 42PD1 has a 42in Plasma screen with a built-in, screen-dividing function for using four or more monitors as a video wall. It also has an on-board PC which allows the unit to be controlled over a network. We reckon it'd be the mutt's nuts for playing Unreal, but you're not likely to get a chance to try this – unless you're the Sultan of Oman.

**Price** £8,812.50 (£7,500 ex VAT)

**Contact** NEC 0645 404 020

[www.nec.com](http://www.nec.com)

