

Boystoys

Check out our guide to presents for boys - not only would they all make brilliant Christmas presents, but they'd also be great if you're not a boy. I mean, who's not going to love playing pool on a glass table, or taking shots from a frozen glass?



clear shot

The latest G-1 pool, snooker and billiards table is the ultimate must have for any bachelor pad. The glass is covered by a thin transparent resin layer called vitrik which allows the balls to move just as they would on a felt table. The striking aesthetics of the table make the perfect centrepiece of the modern games room. Completely visible integrated ball return makes a feature of pocketed balls, and lets you know the exact location of those lost balls. The glass is strengthened making it 4-6 times stronger than normal glass, which then prevents sagging or warping, something which often happens on slate tables.

Clear Shot
www.nottagedesign.com
£17,585 (OK, so it's a little excessive)

get ahead of the curve

As gaming develops, the constant demand to be the newest, best and most original is always a difficult challenge. Ostendo might have just become the leading competitor. The new 43" curved computer screen which is compatible both with PC and Mac, has a respond time of 0.02 milliseconds, the aspect ratio of 32:10 and uses a power consumption of maximum 2 amps. It seems like the perfect boy gamer Christmas present!

CRVD, by Ostendo
\$6499 (£4,134 this month)



ice ice baby

We love simple ideas especially when they make our life easier and more fun. This little piece of bar gadgetry is one of those ideas. The Ice Shot Glasses are essentially a kit that allows you to make 12 ice shot glasses at once. The process involved is very complicated as it involves difficult tasks like filling the trays, placing the caps on and then putting them in your freezer. It obviously comes with instructions just in case you let a woman have a go (we're joking...) The kit is hand wash only and the glasses, once frozen, hold approximately 30ml of alcohol. Combinations that we'd recommend include an orange juice glass with a vodka shot, a frozen chocolate glass filled with Baileys, or frozen tonic with a twist of lemon juice with gin.

Ice Shot glasses
£6.99 | play.com



sharp shooter

The EXILIM Card EX-S200 is a slim, high-quality, card-sized camera that is only 0.6 inches at its thinnest part, the camera sports a 4X optical zoom lens that starts at a 27mm wide-angle view and is capable of taking images with an effective resolution of 14.1 megapixels, while packing numerous other camera features such as Casio's CCD-shift image stabilization mechanism in a slim, compact and stylish body. The EX-S200 comes in five different colours: silver, orange, blue, black and pink. The Quick Mode function powers on the camera with a press of the shutter button, previews a photo after shooting, and automatically powers down. Combined with the portability of the card-sized body, Quick Mode ensures that the user will never miss a photo opportunity.

Casio EX-200
Beyond Computers



Beyond Computers Gadget of the month



Casio EX-Z16 Camera

This newest member of the EXILIM family boasts superb 12MP image quality, as well as 3x optical and 4x digital zoom capabilities. The Easy Mode interface offers a simplified menu, dedicated movie button, and a YouTube capture feature that enables users to record and share live-action videos with just a few clicks.

"We wanted to round out our Exilim digital camera line to include simplified functionality that is beneficial to consumers, and the EX-Z16 definitely achieves this goal," said Toshi Iguchi, Senior General Manager, Digital Imaging Division, Casio America Inc. "The EX-Z16 doesn't just take outstanding photos and videos, it captures beautiful, natural and organic shots that you'll share and cherish with friends and family." Pop in store to find out more!

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or £99.99
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carry case and memory card



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At Switch we drown ourselves in web technology so we can empower clients with the latest web applications. We're here to help clients make the most out of their online potential and would like to share some of the latest and coolest technologies and features out there.

Mac OSX Lion Back to the Mac

Apple has just released details on the 8th version of their incredible operating system OSX. Called Mac OSX Lion it is due to be launched in the summer of 2011. Having focused the last few major developments on the iPhone and then iPad, this is aimed at bringing all that knowledge back full-circle to improve the desktop Mac.

A prime example of this learning is the introduction of an App Store to the Mac, which will simplify the purchase, management and install of apps, while opening up yet more possibilities for developers worldwide to get their slice of the action. Further App based enhancements include the general management and access of Apps through Launchpad, full screen viewing and window management via Mission Control. All looks to be dripping in the usual Apple gloss and as usual, we can't wait to get our paws on it!

More information and screenshots available at www.apple.com/macosex/lion



Website Profile

www.rowlands.co.uk

Client: Rowlands Recruitment
Agency: Adapt Design

Switch Apps is delighted to have worked with Adapt Design to recently launch a new website for Rowlands Recruitment on www.rowlands.co.uk. The main job search feature can be found directly on the homepage and uses a live filter to instantly display jobs that match your criteria. The website also automatically feeds out jobs to local directory websites and we also developed a mobile site optimised for touch-screen mobiles such as the iPhone on www.rowlands.mobi.



ABC of WWW

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

is for Mobile



Internet data usage is going one way, mobile. The stats increase daily but it is estimated that by 2013 1.7 billion people will be mobile internet users. The good news about designing and building websites for mobile is that you don't need to learn new technologies, you just need to look at your website in a new way, focusing more than ever on usability, web standards and content. The bad news is that mobile device platforms, screen sizes and handset features vary greatly, so decide on your audience's platforms of choice and focus your efforts on these. The most common platforms are Windows Mobiles, iPhone OS, Blackberry, Symbian, Android and Palm OS, already quite a number so do your customer research and think simple user experience. If you are looking at taking your website mobile then a great place to start is a book by Cameron Moll on www.mobilewebbook.com.



switch

5 things web

Windows Mobile 7

Eager to increase their lowly 5% share of the mobile market, Windows has built a completely new platform that is definitely worth trying. More at www.microsoft.com/windowsphone



MacBook Air

From just \$999, 11" or 13" screens, 0.68" thick, 1kg, how? www.apple.com/macbookair



Font Spring

Sensibly priced web fonts, great range and good quality, see www.fontspring.com



JackAss 3D Trailer

These boys have been quiet for a few years, but insane as ever. Pop 'JackAss 3D' into YouTube and 'High Five!'



Microsoft to buy Adobe?

Time for Mac-loving agencies to panic; imagine if they stopped Creative Suite for Mac! Unlikely but food for thought...



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Man's new best friends

Motorola CLIQ

Ever sick of having to login in every time you go on Facebook, Twitter or even your email? Well the Motorola CLIQ can get rid of that in one clean sweep, basically one login to rule them all. The CLIQ also features a GPS on the phone to track the phone (if you like me are known for losing phones) and also the GPS can be used like any other for finding restaurants, shops, your friends' houses and so on. It has an excellent camera which once the photo has been taken can share it with the world on any site. Motorola has even created its own Widget store called Android Market. The Motorola CLIQ has a great design with a brilliant display and easy to use controls and keyboard. It's a phone which is designed to make your life more simple... an absolute must now that we're surrounded by more and more complicated technology. If you're looking for an easy to use phone - the Motorola CLIQ is perfect.



Samsung Omnia 7

Samsung's take on Windows Phone 7 was always going to be tech-heavy - and that's proved to be the case. Featuring a cool industrial design, the Samsung Omnia 7 is a slightly different take from the likes of LG and HTC and it's mainly down to the screen. The screen is the part which really makes this phone interesting - the graphics are amazing. The Samsung Omnia 7 supports Facebook, Flickr, Friendster and MySpace, as well as many other apps. This plus photo sharing being an integral part of the phone makes the Samsung Omnia 7 an awesome phone to own.



Nokia N8

The Nokia N8, the phone with a 12 megapixel camera with Carl Zeiss optics and Xenon flash, HD-quality video recording, film editing software and Dolby surround sound.

All in a beautiful, aluminium design. The features include a HD camera to film, edit in high-definition to try and create that masterpiece, then share them with your friends, family or the rest of the world. You can add music, images, text and transitions all from just your phone. It also has a new system called Symbian^3. With Symbian^3 you can enjoy over 250 features such as HD video playback on your compatible wide-screen TV or organising your life online across three home screens. The Nokia N8 also features a HDMI connection so you can show off your images, videos and music with ease on compatible televisions and projectors. All in stunning high-definition. The Nokia N8 brings your friends together by pulling feeds and updates from Facebook and Twitter to one handy app. This means photos and videos can be shared the moment they're captured. You can also personalise your phone by adding your own widgets. Not one but three live home screens - make one for work, use one for fun, and have one with your favourite picture as the wallpaper. Swipe between the home screens with an easy gesture.

All these features are turning the Nokia N8 into the must have phone for Christmas. Plus with iPhone-mania seeming to be wearing off around the planet, Nokia have brought out a model which is very worthy competition for Apple. So what is there not to love?

tablets other than apple flavour.

The Kindle

Amazon's piece of the pie, which is really quite impressive. It's Amazon's number one bestselling item for the past two years. It's also the most-wished-for, most-gifted, and has the most 5-star reviews of any product on Amazon.com. It's incredibly light and small, yet due to the fact it has an adjustable fonts size, it's the easiest way to read. With 4,000 books available it is something that will never stop being useful - and built-in wi-fi in the new gen Kindles make this a very sophisticated model.



Android 2.1 Tablet

Designed by Google, its bright colourbox icons make for an easily navigable interface, with the Android 2.1 Tablet ideal as a handheld tablet. You can use the internet, write emails, watch movies and play games and Google's Android Market offers over 50,000 apps and games. With apps able to be downloaded from the Tablet itself, it's very easy to use, making this a definite rival to most other tablets around.



Galaxy Tab

With the release date the 1st of November, The Galaxy tab has to be mentioned. Unlike the iPad it has a camera, and nearly twice as much RAM as the Apple model. It even uses the Android Market for apps and games. And the best bit? It's also a phone. At the time of going to print, the price was still unconfirmed, although it may be slightly more than the iPad. But it seems well worth it.



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