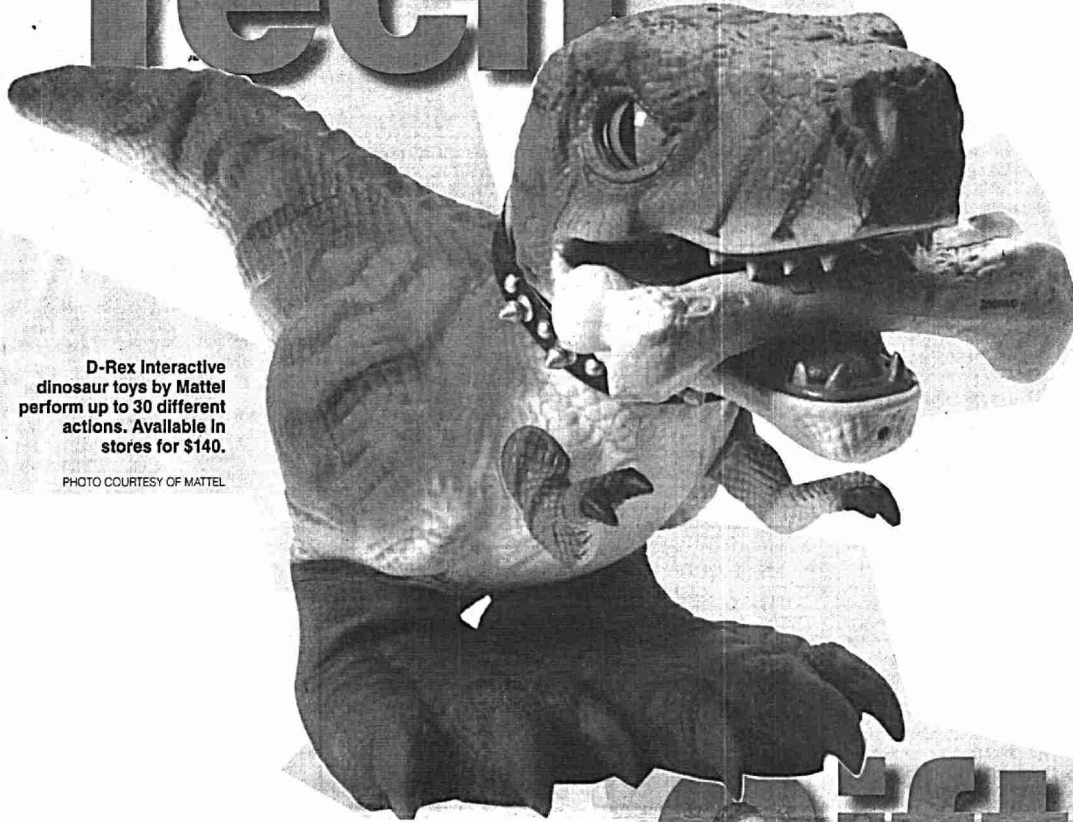


Tech



D-Rex Interactive dinosaur toys by Mattel perform up to 30 different actions. Available in stores for \$140.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MATTEL

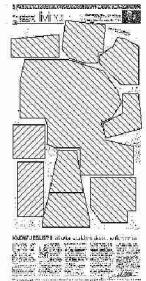
Gifts

By **Tim Clodfelter**
JOURNAL REPORTER

With the holiday shopping season looming, high-tech gifts are a good option. And there are plenty of possibilities — from the expensive to the really, really cheap. Here's a look at some of the gadgets, gizmos and accessories that are suitable for gift-giving this year:

□ This may be a Blu Christmas. With more people getting big-screen, high-definition TV sets, the difference between a DVD image and an uncompressed **Blu-ray** image is more striking than ever. More movies and TV shows are becoming available in Blu, and this year has

There are plenty of options for that gizmo-loving gadget-head on your list



seen the Blu-ray debuts of such classics as *The Wizard of Oz* and *Casablanca*, as well as such recent hits as *Star Trek* and *Watchmen*.

Disney is encouraging buyers of such movies as *Up* and *Monsters Inc.* to make the leap by providing both the DVD and Blu-ray versions in the same package, and some other studios are releasing their movies bare-bones on DVD and loaded with extras on Blu-ray. Prices of players are expected to drop lower than ever this holiday season, possibly even getting under the \$100 mark.

❑ The **Cyberus Smart Info Engine** (\$249.99, in stores or at Buy.com) is a digital multimedia player with a large 7-inch, LCD color screen and a touch-screen interface that combines eBook reader, audio and video player, photo display, and more, all without having to squint at a small

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screen. It also has Wi-Fi applications for weather, news, YouTube, driving directions, and a wide array of tools, all packaged in a stylish leather case.

❑ The **Unotron Washable Keyboard** (\$45.99 for corded, \$79.99 for wireless, www.unotrononline.com) is a good option for the spill-prone, or those who are worried about germs. The "SpillSeal Technology" allows users to rinse and clean their keyboards in the sink without ruining them. Washable versions are also available for mice (\$49.99-69.99) and Smart-card readers (\$24.99).

❑ Hasbro's **Clue: Secrets & Spies** (\$24.99, in stores) takes the classic board game and adds an espionage theme with a high-tech twist. Players take on the roles of undercover agents trying to thwart the dastardly Criminal League for Ultimate Espionage (C.L.U.E. for short). The board game includes a "spy light" that illuminates hidden clues on cards, and players punch in their cell-phone numbers to get game-changing text messages during the

course of the game.

❑ Fans of *The Simpsons* who follow all of Homer's shenanigans can now follow his directions as well. **The Homer Voice GPS System Download** (Tom Tom, \$12.95, www.tomtom.com/simpsons) is a download that changes a Tom Tom GPS system to speak in the voice of the animated sitcom star.

❑ Looking for a cute stocking stuffer? Make organizing loose cables a little more fun with **Animal Utility Clips** (\$0.55 each, www.cableorganizer.com), little cable holders designed to grasp wires and keep them in place. There are 30 designs, including gators, dinosaurs, sharks and plenty more.

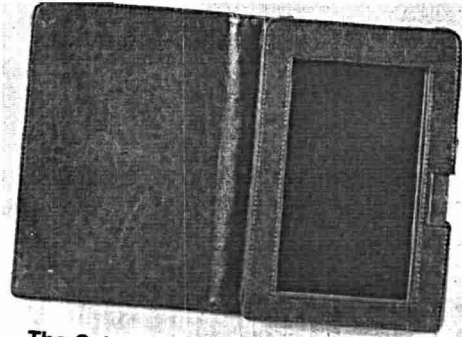
❑ **Lionel Trains** has a new toy train set devoted to the film *A Christmas Story* (\$139.99, at Target stores). The G-Gauge train set has a locomotive, two boxcars, a remote control, and even a miniature reproduction of the film's famous leg lamp.

❑ Customize your laptop, phone or gaming device with **DIY GelaSkins** (\$14.95 to \$29.95 depending on the device, www.gelaskins.com) vinyl protective covers with anti-scratch, anti-UV coating. Users go the Web site, select a device, upload the art (photos of family, pets, art you've done; but no copyrighted images, please) and lay out the image. The GelaSkins are mailed one to two days later. Custom designs can also be shared on Facebook and Twitter. If you're not feeling creative, the site has plenty of cover designs by artists.

❑ Remember Pleo, the

gentle interactive robotic pet dinosaur? She's got some fierce competition in Mattel's **D-Rex** (\$140, in stores), a cartoonish little beast that roams around, responds to its user and performs up to 30 different actions, adapting its behavior patterns based on how the user plays with it. Looking for something a bit cheaper? The **Screature** interactive dinosaur (\$35, in stores) snaps, coos, growls and spits water at his prey.

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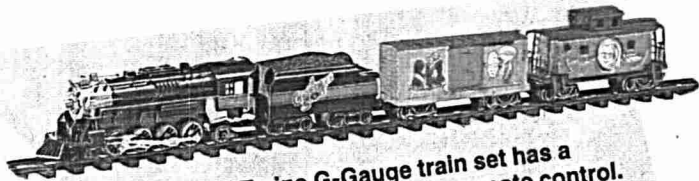
The Cyberus Smart Info Engine is a digital multimedia player with 7-inch, LCD color screen. Available at stores or Buy.com for \$249.99.

JOURNAL PHOTO BY WALT UNKS



IMAGE COURTESY OF WWW.GELASKINS.COM

GelaSkins removable art prints allow customizing of laptops, cell phones or gaming devices.



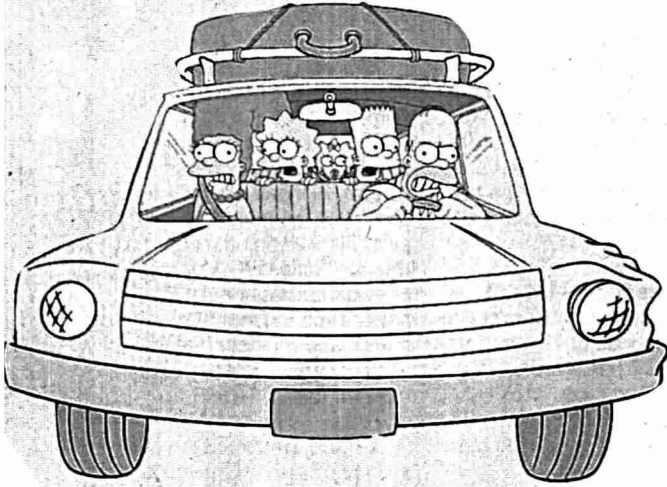
Lionel Trains G-Gauge train set has a locomotive, two boxcars and a remote control. Available at Target stores for \$139.99.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DAN KLORES COMMUNICATIONS



Screature, an interactive dinosaur by Mattel, snaps, coos, growls and spits water. At stores for \$35.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MATTTEL



Fans of Homer's can take him along for the ride on The Homer Voice GPS System Download. Available at www.tomtom.com for \$12.95.

IMAGE COURTESY OF TOM TOM/FOX

Unotron SpillSeal washable keyboard is ideal for those prone to spill. Available at www.unotrononline.com for \$45.99 corded, \$79.99 wireless.

JOURNAL PHOTO BY WALT UNKS



Animal Utility Clips make cute stocking stuffers. Available at www.cableorganizer.com for 55 cents each.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KERN COMMUNICATIONS



Players take on the roles of undercover agents in Hasbro's Clue Secrets & Spies board game. Available in stores at \$24.99.

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