

Home Technology - *continued*

as well. The Minoru 3D webcam, the world's first 3D webcam, makes it feel like you're right there with your loved ones.

A 3D webcam can connect you to someone on the other side of the world and really make you feel like you can reach out and touch someone. No wonder the webcam is named 'Minoru', which means 'reality' in Japanese.

The bright red Minoru webcam hooks to a monitor or sits on a desk with a vise-like multi-position stand that looks much like two arms and a torso. The arms, torso, and webcam eyes make the cam look eerily similar to Johnny 5 from the movie *Short Circuit*. Unlike Johnny 5, the Minoru has never insinuated that my mother was a snow blower.

The Minoru's eyes light up and look

▼ Minoru 3D Webcam



at you when the standard USB 2.0 connection is plugged into a computer. Each eye of the Minoru is a camera. The webcam performs stereoscopic anaglyphic processing to sew the two separate images into a 3D image stream at up to 30 frames per second.

The webcam works with standard IM clients like Windows Live Messenger, Skype, AOL Instant Messenger, etc. The cam has a Picture in Picture option in addition to 2D and 3D options. It even takes 3D photos and records 3D videos that you can post to YouTube.

The cam resolutions are 800x600, 640x480 (VGA), 352x288, or 320x240 pixels.

Minoru 3D Webcam
\$75-90
minoru3d.com

BY ED KASPRZAK

Smart Strip Power Adapter

Essentially everything that feeds our entertainment needs like TVs, computers, or radios needs to be plugged in or charged up. A multi-outlet power strip is essential to tame the inevitably resulting rat's nest of power cables. The Smart Strip Power Adapter pays for itself by stopping the loss of idle current that would otherwise



▲ Smart Strip Power Adapter

contribute to your high-energy bill.

The Smart Strip functions as a multi-outlet power strip with surge protection that saves energy by electronically unplugging unused devices. The Smart Strip's seven outlets separate into three sections that are easily legible and color coordinated on the strip's face.

- ▶ The Control section (blue) has one outlet which controls the distribution of power to the four outlets in the Automatically Switched Outlets section (beige). Powering down the device in the Control section will automatically shut down devices plugged into the Automatically Switched section.
- ▶ The Constant Hot section (red) is used to keep the flow of power open even when the control device has powered off the remaining devices. For instance, when you shut down your computer before bed, you can have the strip shut off the TV as well while letting your cell phone charge throughout the night.

The Smart Strip will enable you to easily customize your work or play space by interchanging your devices as you see fit.

Smart Strip
\$28-40
CableOrganizer.com