

Is There a Spy in Your Computer? p.52

Popular Mechanics

PWC BUYING GUIDE

SCIENCE AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY OUTDOORS HOME

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THE TRUTH ABOUT OIL

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ONBOARD A DEEP-SEA OIL RIG



DIY
YOUR BEST LAWN EVER

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UPGRADE AUTO ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS

WE TEST BACKYARD CHIPPERS



HOUSE OF THE YEAR:

THE HURRICANE-READY HOME

WHAT WENT WRONG:

INTERSTATE INFERNO

LONG-TERM CAR TESTS:

JEEP, MAZDA, INFINITI



So, what do you need to sacrifice in order to squeeze a full-powered laptop into a shell that tapers down to just 0.16 in. in depth? If the waifish new **MacBook Air (\$1800)** is any indication, quite a bit. While we're impressed that Intel was able to shrink its 1.6 GHz Core 2 Duo processor by 60 percent in order to fit it into the wafer-thin notebook, the lack of an integrated CD/DVD drive or more than one USB jack may be a deal breaker for most. And it's hard to justify such a purchase when almost-as-tiny Linux-based notebooks (such as the Asus Eee PC) cost just a few hundred dollars. But hey, this thing can fit in a manila envelope! apple.com

0.16"–0.76"
(Closed)



MIGHTY MORPHER ///

Press one button and the touchscreen on the **Motorola ROKR E8 (price not set)** transforms from a music player into a phone. The best part: The screen responds with tactile feedback that makes it feel like you're pressing an actual button and not just pushing glass. Sure, we've seen haptics before (see page 86), but these jolts are more like real buttons than just about any consumer product yet. motorola.com

Test Drive

KAWASAKI
RECREATIONAL
UTILITY VEHICLE



The **Kawasaki Teryx 750 Recreational Utility Vehicle (\$9800)** is powered by a category-first liquid-cooled V-twin engine, which offers about 50 cc more displacement (for a total of 749 cc) than the single-cylinder engines found in similar vehicles. On a recent test drive in southern Utah, we were able to muscle our way through inhospitable terrain relatively untroubled thanks to the vehicle's independent front and rear suspension (which offers 7.5 in. of travel) and gas-charged shock absorbers. kawasaki.com

— Charles Plueddeman



Giving your workstation a second screen is a quick way to boost productivity (it yields an efficiency jump of up to 50 percent, according to a Microsoft-funded study). Still, multiple monitors take up serious space and can be pricey, meaning most people's screens stand solo. The 22-in. **Samsung SyncMaster 2263DX Dual Display Monitor (\$550)** comes with a 7-in. tandem display that attaches to any side of the screen, or even to the desk next to it, allowing you to keep an eye on a browser window, e-mail or IM without having to flip through windows on the main monitor. samsung.com

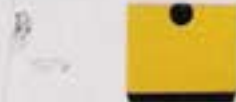


ELECTRIC WARRIOR ///

The unique diamond-shaped notch on the **Klein OTR-Turn NM Cable Stripper/Cutter (\$35)** makes stripping sheath from bulky cables a cinch. Simply close it around a wire, make a quarter turn and pull. The wire's coating slides off, and the design leaves little room for wire-snipping errors. The multifaceted tool also features shears, a plier tip and notches for chopping screws. kleintools.com



Any level can tell you if something is vertical or horizontal. But sometimes hitting those axes isn't the goal, as with plumbing or carpentry jobs where drain pipes or roof rafters require precise slopes. The **Montgomery 48-In. Degree Level (\$80)** features a bubble-based angle measure that lets you easily read its exact degree of tilt. montgomerylevelcompany.com



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And adventurers.

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on different bikes.

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by one common thread.

The ride.



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