

"Auld Lang Syne" and such from the G-Lab posse to y'all out there in Websville. We'll remember 2003 as the year we bought laptops with screens bigger than grandpa's TV, pawned our PDAs for a down payment on a smartphone, and upgraded our original Wi-Fi networks to faster 802.11g. We're sure to look back fondly on the gadgets of the last 12 months -- except when we're weeping over our staggeringly large credit card bills. Our resolution for 2004: We'll take deep breaths and count to 10 every time we're about to hit that infernal Click Here to Purchase button.

Here's the first round of gear to test this new discipline: a cool toy cash register, a Sirius satellite radio setup, and a groovy vapor inhaler that helps you quit smoking. 1 ... 2 ... 3 ... 4 ... 5 ... gotta remember to breathe ...

Toast us at gadgetlab@wiredmag.com and share your New Year's gadget resolutions. -- **Chris Baker**



Learning Resources Teaching Cash Register

[RETAIL: \$45]

Why is a nickel bigger than a dime? How come there's no \$15 bill? These are the type of questions my daughters, ages 4 and 8, asked while playing store with this interactive cash register. It comes with play coins, a built-in scale, and a scannable credit card, but the Monopoly-like paper bills seem an afterthought -- they can't be scanned or otherwise used with the machine's interactive features. My 8-year-old practiced her two-digit addition and subtraction, solving equations on the LCD and pushing Enter to check her answers. My 4-year-old loved hearing the robotic voice, which urged her to "insert quarter" and rewarded her with "nice job" when she did. She also liked passing random items over the scanner; turns out her stuffed bear costs \$8.95. -- **Bob Cohn**
[RATING: 6/10] [learningresources.com]



Kenwood Here2Anywhere Portable Sirius Satellite Tuner and Optional Home Docking Kit

[RETAIL: \$130 (tuner), \$70 (docking kit), plus \$13 monthly subscription]

Satellite radio isn't just for cars -- this Kenwood kit brings it to your home stereo. The good news is that the sound quality is superb, setup is a breeze, and the interface is highly intuitive. Within two minutes of unpacking, I had access to 100 channels of music, sports, and news. The downside is that the unit gets extremely hot if it's left on for more than an hour, so turn it off when you leave the house. And while Sirius expands your listening options like cable TV expands your viewing options, the payoff isn't as great as you might think. I spent a good deal of time surfing the commercial-free stations only to find that there was nothing on -- just like cable TV. -- **Allister Fein**
[RATING: 6/10] [kenwoodusa.com]



Air-2's NicoHale System for Smoking Cessation

[RETAIL: \$200, plus \$30 per extra box of herbal disks]

Who knew quitting smoking could be this hip? NicoHale's digital inhaler looks and feels like a raver's hookah and uses aromatherapy to help you kick the stick forever. It worked for our lab rat after gum, the patch, and cold turkey had failed. Six weeks of breathing herbs and oils that simulate the taste of cigs, and she dropped from two packs every three days to none. The instructions stress that the inhaler will save you from "any smokable herb," but since this unwieldy technogadget needs an electrical outlet to function, "social smoking" is difficult. Nevertheless, it produces no secondhand smoke, so an understanding boss might let you use it at work. Nicotine, begone! -- **Miriam Boon**

[RATING: 8/10] [nicohale.com]