

SOUND ROUND

Portable speakers are a tough sell to any audiophile. But Bang & Olufsen took great care to craft the high-design Beoplay A1 Bluetooth speaker to have the sound quality one expects from this Danish company. Inside, the audio technology delivers 2x140 Watts at peak power, plus it offers an audible range from 60 to 24,000 Hz. On the outside, Danish designer Cecilie Manz used the round aluminum grill to protect the precious drivers inside. Splash and dust resistant, Beoplay A1 is designed to take its fair share of bumps and scrapes while still protecting the delicate drivers and electronics inside. The company even cleverly uses durability in its marketing: "Every scratch tells a story."

+beoplay.com



HOME GROWN

For those who long to grow vegetables year round, let's hope IKEA brings KRYDDA/VÄXER series to the U.S. very soon. The new indoor-gardening products include everything you need sans the seeds, power, and water. Users start with soaking spongy "starter plugs" in water. Add the seed and watch it germinate in a few days. When some greenery pops up, the plant is transferred to a tabletop greenhouse, complete with controlled lighting and water reservoir. Don't forget to water and—just like gardening outdoors in the summer here—get ready to harvest fresh vegetables for dinner.

+ikea.com



CASE MAKER

Your iPhone's protective case may have rescued it from many a fall, but yawn, does it have to look so ordinary? Mother and daughter team Elizabeth and Erin Dining, who live in Boulder, came up with Cradl, a twist on protective cases. With a frame made from rigid ultra-thin plastic, Cradl cases have intricate designs carved into the back. On the front, raised corners keep the phone's screen from touching any surface. Made for iPads and iPhones.

+ cradlcase.com





PINK THINK

If staring at pink walls calmed aggressive inmates during the late 1970s, why not athletes? At least that's the gist behind the Baker Miller Pink hoodie, designed by twin brothers Steve and Nick Tidball, who founded innovative clothing company Vollebak. The insulated jacket is mostly the same shade of pink, which closely resembles bubble-gum or Pepto-Bismol. The hood zips up completely, leaving air holes, of course. Just 15 minutes is all one needs to slow down breathing and recover from strenuous activity. "It's only by enduring the highs and lows ourselves that we think about the kind of questions that need answering," say the brothers.

+vollebak.com

FIRE UP

Leave fire pits made from dirt and large rocks to camping. The Stahl Firepit is a solid look for any modern back yard. And it's made of solid steel but with a twist. Each piece is separate—it's not welded, making the strategically laser-cut pieces easy to take apart and put together when necessary. And while it's difficult to compete with the natural elements of dirt and rocks, Stahl kept it free of artificial treatments by intentionally avoiding powder coating. Let it weather gracefully, says the Portland company. It'll look better with age.



+stahlfirepit.com



NIGHT LIGHT

Fatboy is at it again. Just like its minimalistic table lamp-shaped Edison, Fatboy's Lampie-On comes from the same idea. But this time, the light is shaped like a Maraca. The wire-free design—it charges on a separate base—includes a convenient top hook to hang from a tree or other shelter. But if a white light is too minimal, Lampie-On comes with four copper-colored sleeves with detailed designs to add some exotic flair.

+fatboyusa.com

TAKE NOTE

It's official. The Internet is now in sticky notes. The great thing about this new breed of sticky notes is there is no waste! The 3.5-inch square SeeNote still attaches to a wall. But messages on the e-paper screen change digitally using a smartphone app. Weather reports, task lists, reminders, a light switch connected to your Internet of Things light bulbs—essentially, it helps you remember the things a yellow sticky note once did.

+getseenote.com





SMALL SCREEN

As consumers rely less on laptops in favor of compact smartphones, it makes sense for other electronics to follow suit. Take Sony's new Portable Ultra Short Throw Projector (the LSPX-P1), a white, 2-pound projector that is slightly larger than an Apple TV. Wirelessly connect it your phone to stream a video onto a nearby wall—up to 80-inches wide. It also works with any HDMI-compatible device—Blu-ray player, cable box, etc. While at 768p, it's on the low-end of high-definition video, this wireless projector is completely portable, with built-in speakers and rechargeable battery, plus Bluetooth, which turns the projector on if it senses your smartphone is near.

+sony.com



AIR PLAY

The wonderful thing about air mattresses is they can fold away so quickly and compactly, you forget how ugly they are. But why must such sleeping spots be ugly? Designer Denis Santachiara figured out how to make the boring bed an attraction with Ca.Mia. As the mattress inflates, it takes the shape of a small house with a gable roof. Guests get privacy. Hosts get something nicer to look at. Plus, it comes in a chartreuse-like shade!

+campeggisrl.it

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