technology & home entertainment



Video game NOT list

Our critics' picks of the hottest new games for console systems, portable systems and home computers

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For children

■ 'Let's Draw!'

For many children, drawing doesn't come naturally. Parents who want to provide drawing lessons should pick up "Let's Draw!," a nifty Nintendo DS game from Majesco Entertainment. It's based on the theory that kids can learn

■ Bag up your cables in the Cable

\$9.99 at www.cableorganizer.com.

Snake, made of outdoor-grade

fabric that comes in four colors.



to draw by showing them how to break down familiar objects into shapes like circles, ovals, rectangles and triangles. What makes this game extra cool is that it animates whatever kids draw. The lessons are spoken aloud in a friendly voice, and shown in a step-by-step manner on the top screen. "Let's Draw!" is a brilliantly conceived game with great execution. Its approach to drawing makes it nonthreatening and easy to understand. This game will play on any Nintendo DS or DSi, but using the 4.2-inch screen of the new Nintendo DSi XL makes your creations look larger and seem more alive. Rating: E (Everyone); comic mischief.

Publisher: Majesco Entertainment, www.majescoentertainment.com.

Platform: Nintendo DS.

Price: \$19.99.

For tweens and older

■ 'Mall-A-Palooza'

If you've ever walked around your local mall and complained about the store



selection, the lousy salesclerks or the dirty floors, you can put your mouse where your mouth is in "Mall-A-Palooza," a new game that tests your skills at managing a mall. Players must accomplish a handful of tasks such as picking a spot to build a store, upgrading its appearance, hiring the best staff and dealing with thieves, electrical shortages and patrons who toss trash on the ground. As with most time management games, you've only got a certain amount of time to complete the objectives or else you need to start all over. You'll be rewarded for your hard work thanks to unlockable achievements. This challenging and rewarding sim should please those in search of a different spin on a popular casual game genre. Rating: No rating.

Publisher: iWin, www.iwin.com.

Platform: PC

Price: Free to try, \$9.99 to buy.

Tech tools & toys roundu

A summary of hip new electronics products and computer gear

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gear safe from surges and, with

lengths, offers flexibility. \$16.65

at www.cableorganizer.com.

outlets on cords of various

'Green' watch

You recycle. Maybe you bike to work. Why not make sure your watch is eco-friendly as well? Casio has unveiled an addition to its Pathfinder collection, the bright green PAG110C-3. Aimed at outdoorsmen who appreciate solar power, the watch runs on energy from light. The watch also has a digital compass, altimeter, barometer, thermometer, five daily alarms, a stopwatch and world time in 30 cities. It is water resistant and can withstand low temperatures. Available: www.amazon.com.

Price: \$250.



Pilot Cord & Cable Labels come in a pack of 40

for chargers and other electronic devices, or a

\$5.99 at The Container Store.

pack of 32 for computers and office equipment.

Geocaching GPS

■ Magellan gives its GPS line an adventurous twist with the debut of a "treasure-hunting" gadget. Designed



as a geocaching device, the Magellan eXplorist GC relies on GPS technology to help users hide and find objects and solve location-based puzzles.

Preloaded with popular geocaches, the waterproof gadget features a color screen and encouraging graphics, such as smiley faces and metric based awards.

Available: www.magellangps.com/

exploristgc.

Price: \$199.99 (includes free 30-day membership to www.geocaching.com).

Comfy earphones

■ Do you find that it's uncomfortable to have earbuds stuck in your ear canals all day? Ifrogz' EarPollution CS40 headphones have cushiony ear cups that stay comfy, even when your playlist goes on and on. Better yet, the sound is superior. Available in white, black, blue, red and pink, each pair features an adjustable headband that folds up for easy storage.



Available: http://ifrogz.com.

Price: \$39.99.