

## Holiday Gadgets for that “Last Minute Shopper”

Admit it, there is still some people out there that want nothing to do with holiday shopping until they are forced to shop. This column is for you!

If you know someone who can't travel without his or her clubs, the perfect gift is the SunMountain Clubglider. There are plenty of travel bags out there, what sets the Clubglider apart from the rest is the integrated leg set which gives you two extra wheels and puts the bag at about a 45 degree angle. That eliminates all the bending and lifting in line at the baggage check-in counter. They also support 100% of the weight of the bag, which makes it much easier to maneuver. The extra set of wheels also pivots making it easier to steer around obstacles. Visit [www.sunmountain.com](http://www.sunmountain.com) for more information on the Clubglider.



There will be plenty of laptops underneath the Christmas tree this year. A couple of great last minute gifts come from Hewlett Packard. With technology becoming smaller and better, two gifts that would go great with any laptop would be the HP Premium Autofocus Webcam and the HP Wireless Laser Mini Mouse. Both will easily fit into a travel bag and help keep you in touch with the office, or help you say goodnight to a loved one while traveling. The Premium Autofocus Webcam gives you crisp, sharp video images through a 2-Megapixel (1600x1200) CMOS sensor with autofocus capture and share still pictures of up to 12 Megapixels. The Wireless Laser Mini Mouse is a perfect accessory for those who are sick of trying to use a touch pad while on the road or in the office. Both devices

are plug and play, which makes set-up a breeze. For more information, visit the HP Official Store online at [www.hpdirect.com](http://www.hpdirect.com).



A great stocking stuffer this holiday season would be the Solpod re-usable portable instant heat source. Now I was on the course the other day in 30 degree weather and I can tell you keeping your hands warm will make the difference between a good round or a poor round. What I like about the Solpod is the fact they are re-usable. Many products like this you end up throwing away after a single use, tossing away your hard earned money. They come in a 4-inch or 6-inch pod, holding heat for 30 or 60 minutes respectively. In addition to keeping you warm, they are perfect to loosen up your back or stiff muscles after a round. For more information visit [www.solpods.net](http://www.solpods.net).

Talking about technology, I love the new drivers that are out today where you can “dial” in the way you want to shape your shot. Hitting the new Cobra Golf L5V driver almost feels like cheating. No matter what I do, I always seem to have a little slice on my drives. Well Cobra Golf has taken care of my slice and allowed me to put a little draw on my drives. Simply take the L5V torque wrench, unscrew the screw at the base of the hosel and chose your ball flight.

There are two settings on the hosel, setting 0 gives you standard ball flight, setting 1 gives you increased draw-biased flight. Once the screw is loosened, pull the club head up slightly and choose your setting. I had the Cobra L5V driver set and ready to go in a matter of minutes. Once I arrived at the course, I hit countless balls with the Cobra L5V Driver, and I couldn't find one ball mark off center. That's because the Cobra L5V features the largest clubface in golf. I found this driver to be just as long as any I have hit to date. There is something about standing at the tee knowing I don't have to worry about my slice coming into play. I am looking forward to next year knowing the Cobra L5V Driver will be in my bag. Cobra Golf has a dedicated website to the L5V Driver, visit [www.cobragolf.com/L5V](http://www.cobragolf.com/L5V) for all the technical specs and features of the L5V Driver.



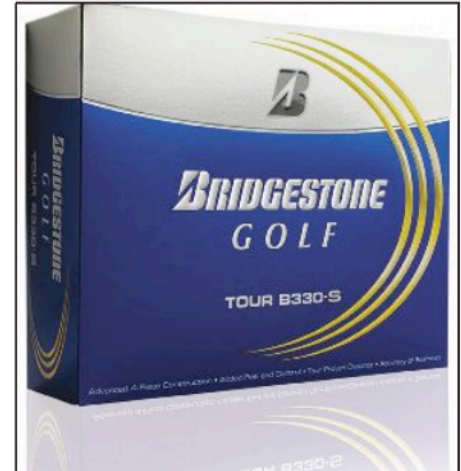
If you know someone who is technology challenged, but is looking for the accuracy of a GPS distance unit, take a close look at the Izzo Golf Swami 1500. The Swami is so easy to use; anyone who can use a remote control can now have the distance of every shot in his or her hands. Granted the Izzo Golf Swami doesn't give you a complete layout of the hole, what it does give you is extremely accurate yardage to the front, center

and back of the green. When you arrive at your favorite course, simply turn the Swami on and the digital display will give you a read out of how long it will take to find the GPS Satellite. It is also extremely easy to load on your favorite courses. When I went to load on a course, most of the courses I play were already available. What I found truly amazing was how fast my course requests were answered through the Swami website. I simply clicked “request course” and I received an e-mail within a couple of days telling me the course was available for download. With a price of \$179.99 and only a \$35 yearly membership, the Izzo Golf Swami is an easy, affordable solution for any golfer looking for GPS distance accuracy. For more information and to view some of the 12,000 courses already loaded, visit [www.izzo.com](http://www.izzo.com).





When it comes to swing speed, my speed varies depending on the club. For example, when the driver is in my hand, my swing speed is about 115 mph. However, when I have a pitching wedge, my swing speed can drop to 95 mph. It is difficult for me to find a ball that reacts to my game. I was very impressed with the Bridgestone B330 series golf ball. This ball gives me the distance I crave with my drive, and the spin I need with my short irons. You can never go wrong giving a golfer golf balls. Check out what Bridgestone B330 series ball will be right for you at [www.bridgestonegolf.com](http://www.bridgestonegolf.com)



If someone on your list is asking for an iPhone or Blackberry Curve, make sure they get the best sound quality by using the Shure SE102MPA Sound Isolating Mobile Headset. I love this headset frankly because I have small ears. I know that sounds crazy, however most earphones that come with MP3 players simply don't fit in my ears or are extremely uncomfortable. The cool thing about the SE102MPA sound isolating headsets are they give you great sound quality, and allows you to make and receive calls with the built in VoicePort Inline Microphone. With the integrated control buttons, it is extremely easy to receive and end calls without touching your phone. The sound isolating

feature blocks over 90 percent of ambient noise. I even used the Shure SE102MPA sound isolating mobile headset while I was mowing my lawn. I wouldn't recommend trying to talk on the phone while mowing the lawn, but I had no problems listening to my favorite music while I raced around cutting my lawn. For more information on the SE102MPA Sound Isolating Mobile Headset and other sound isolating headsets visit [www.shure.com](http://www.shure.com)

The last time I went to Maine, Hurricane Kyle was barreling up the Eastern Sea Coast. Although I wasn't about to play golf during the hurricane, I certainly had the outerwear to protect me from the weather. The Sunice "Hurricane" outerwear was designed to withstand heavy rains and strong winds. Utilizing Gore-Tex and Windstopper fabric, this lightweight jacket keeps the elements away. Sure it's no fun playing in bad weather, but there are times when you do. I wish the Sunice "Hurricane" outerwear was available back in 1990 when I played golf during "the perfect storm". It was the first year of a charity golf tournament I was holding for three young children who were injured during a flash fire. 90 brave golfers were playing in some of the worst conditions ever, with trees falling, rain coming down sideways and 18-holes to play the weather never stopped us, we all certainly could have used the Sunice line of clothing. When it comes to charity tournaments, I always show up rain or shine. Now I know if it does rain, I will be the dry one in the clubhouse after our round. To view the different styles and the 2008 collection, visit [www.sunice.com](http://www.sunice.com)





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If you have electronics or computers on your holiday list, make sure you visit [www.cableorganizer.com](http://www.cableorganizer.com). There is nothing worse than getting new electronics and not having the proper cables to make sure you are getting the best picture quality or not being able to connect to a network. Believe me when I say, having the right cables is vital to a great high definition picture or better audio from a sound system. Most “supplied” cables are low end because they are just that “supplied” from the manufacturer. [www.cableorganizer.com](http://www.cableorganizer.com) has everything you need to make sure your cables are neatly organized and giving you 100% of what your new electronics were made to deliver.



Every year at the Conrad house, there is always a little payback. For example giving a niece or nephew a set of drums, or some toy that makes noises that will keep you up until the day the batteries die. If you want to be the cool aunt or uncles, the gift that will surely have parents screaming, “turn that down” would be the combination of the Creative Zen X-Fi with wireless LAN and the Creative GigaWorks T40 full range speaker system. The X-Fi MP3 player is far more than just an MP3 player. You can stream pictures and music utilizing the wireless LAN from your home network. X-Fi Xtreme Fidelity Audio Technology restores the quality of compressed music giving you true sound from your MP3 files. The GigaWorks T40 desktop speakers connects to your PC or MP3 player giving you rich quality sound your pc speakers or headphones can’t deliver. These are the perfect speakers to have on your desk allowing you to listen to music while you work or play. I am consistently impressed with the products Creative has to offer. For those last minute gifts that are sure to make a big impact visit <http://us.creative.com>

During the off-season in New England, I will be working on my swing with the Medicus Golf PowerMaximus Driver and Dual Hinge Trainers. I’ve seen the infomercial 1000 times, and I couldn’t wait to see if I could swing the Medicus dual hinge 5-iron without having the hinge break. Well, I couldn’t at first, but after a little practice I could easily identify the flaws in my swing. The best things about the Medicus trainers are you can hit real balls with the clubs. This gives you the true feel of how a golf swing should feel. With the Medicus PowerMaximus Driver you are training your muscles to hit long, straight drives. I plan to swing these clubs often during the winter months of New England and look forward to see how my game has developed come March or April of 2009.

Visit <http://www.medicus.com> to see all the training gadgets Medicus Golf has to help your game.



*It's hard to believe another year has come and gone. Here is wishing you and yours the happiest of holidays. I hope someone who is buying you a gift has read my column over the past few months, as any of these gadgets would be a welcome gift under my Christmas tree. Something I find that works great is to get yourself a second copy of West Coast Golfer, tear out a couple of pages and leave them around your house or work place as hints. As we move forward into a new year, I am looking forward to testing all sorts of new gadgets. If you see any infomercials or products you would like me to test out, please send an e-mail to [mconrad@wcgolfer.com](mailto:mconrad@wcgolfer.com). May you have a joyful holiday season and a Happy New Year!!*