



## Technology gadgets for Christmas and beyond

**W**ith Christmas rapidly approaching, here are a few of my favorite gadgets in case you are looking for the last minute

gift or seeking an after-Christmas deal. I have divided the list into three price categories:

### Less than \$100:

Know where you are at all times and never ask for directions again with a portable GPS (Global Positioning System) for your vehicle. Look for features such as widescreen display and spoken street names to name a couple that are sought after.

Catch your favorite movie in theater-like high definition with a Blu-Ray player. Make sure you have a 1080p-capable TV or display. Do not fall for the pricey HDMI cable to connect the two if your player does not come with one bundled; you can have one in a day or two from amazon.com for a fraction of the cost at an electronics store.

### \$100 - \$250:

Does anyone not have an iPhone? Just in case, check out AT&T for the latest prices and be sure to have a look at the refurbished devices. In my experience these refurbished devices are usually near flawless and offer a considerable savings. You can even get the previous generation 3G 8GB (refurb) version for \$49.99. Of course all iPhone plans will commit you to a wireless phone and data service plan on a 2-year contract. Yes, this is the gift that keeps on giving (much beyond this price category).

### \$250 - \$400:

Now may be the time to get the flat-screen HDTV to go along with your Blu-Ray purchase! In this price range you will more than likely consider the 32in size or below. Look for really good deals in the weeks immediately prior to Super Bowl Sunday.

Netbooks, the "Tiny Laptops That Could," have been filling our inboxes and sale papers for about two years now. Most devices will fall at the lower end of this price range and provide basic computing experiences. Perfect for students or techies on-the-go. Please check out the previous article "Meet your next laptop?" in March's issue.

I will close with a few of my favorite online places to shop for great technology and computer related gadgets: Amazon (<http://www.amazon.com>), NewEgg (<http://www.newegg.com>), and Tiger Direct (<http://www.tigerdirect.com>).

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