

Boys' toys

SOUNDING BOARD

WHETHER you hang it on a wall, stand it up vertically or strap it to a swing and hit it with a squash racquet, Bang and Olufsen's BeoSound 9000 looks the business. It's worth mentioning the six discs' worth of programmable music and the integrated tuner, but it's most fun when you invite people round to watch them cry with envy when they see it. **\$6700**, call 1800 818 238

GRAPHIC DISPLAY

PASS the hours in traffic jams fooling around with the high-contrast colour display on one of JVC's new 3DLH CD car-audio receivers. The animated 3D graphics can be made specific to the disc playing, even if it's your own compilation, thanks to CD-RW, CD-R and MP3 compatibility. Just don't forget to check the traffic lights occasionally. **\$649** and up, call JVC on (02) 9370 8888

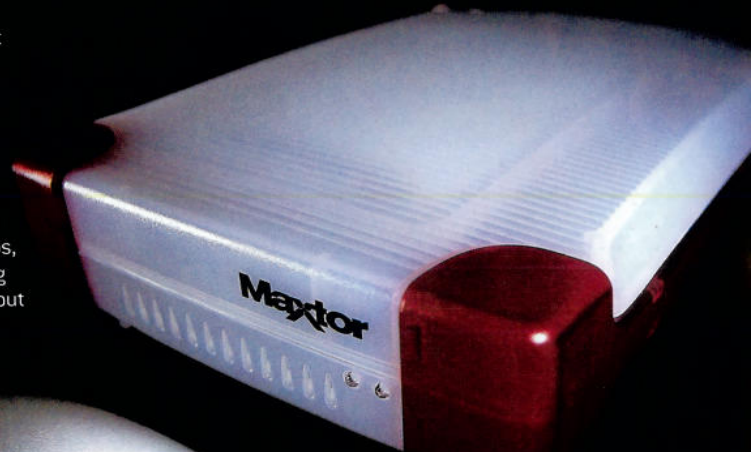


CLICK AND POINT

ERICSSON'S CommuniCam must have something going for it when the **RALPH** photo editor nicks the damn thing and won't give it back for three days. Just click it into the base of an Ericsson R320, R520, T20e or T39 and you can be sending digital pics on e-mail within seconds. **\$350**, call Ericsson on 1300 650 050

LOCAL STORE

"UNIVERSAL serial bus interface" is not as interesting a phrase as, say, "She willingly removed her underwear," but **RALPH** features so many digital cameras, we've strayed just once into the land of nerd. Maxtor's USB 2.0 compatible Personal Storage 3000LE 120GB model allows you to store a boatload of digital photos, home videos, audio clips and so on, without opening your PC. Phew. Now what was that about underwear? **\$749**, plus adaptor card **\$129**. Call Maxtor on (02) 9369 3662



WRISTY BUSINESS

THE Casio WQV10-1KIT has a tiny digital camera mounted on its front. The resolution might not be the best, but you can amaze friends and impress girls with your ability to provide recognisable colour shots from the very back of your wrist. Photos are easily transferable to any PC with a USB port. **\$579**, call Casio on (02) 9415 5000



SEE HOW IT RUNS

AND lo, there came the dawn of the optical mouse. It was a mighty coming, which doomed the mouse mat and mouse ball and cast them unto the bin. First among them was Intellimouse, from the kingdom of Microsoft, with 6000 scans per second, five programmable buttons and a visually pleasing light. And it was good. **\$99.95** from computer retailers



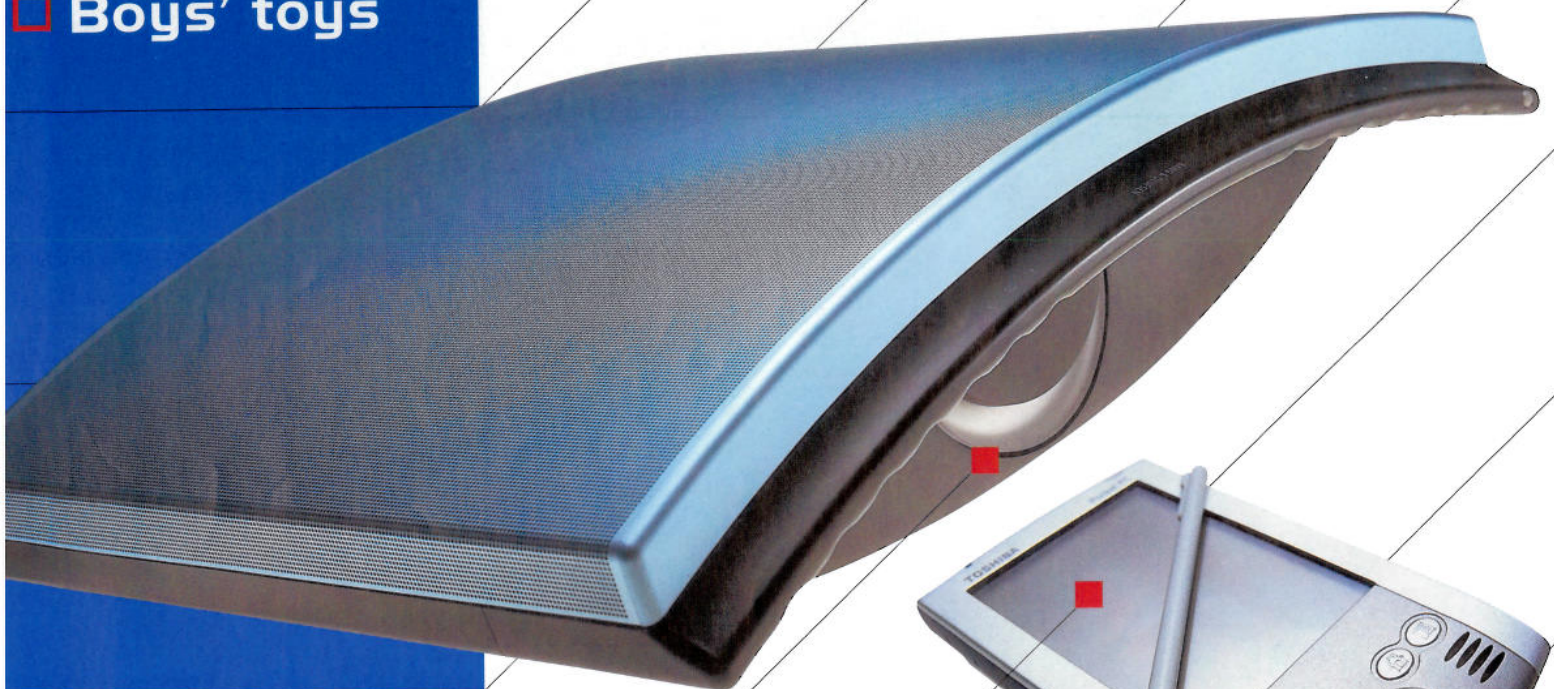
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MOVING DESIGN

THE peculiar designs of Bang and Olufsen can make ordinary people stare creatively into the distance and think things like, "Elephants should be orange." The five speakers on this CD/radio generate enough noise to have the local Migraine Sufferers Club round with shotguns, and it comes in a variety of colours – including "russet", which could, at a creative pinch, be orange. **\$2290** Call Bang and Olufsen on 1800 818 238

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

ONE way to tell if a product is feeling confident and outgoing is if it suddenly sprouts a fancy new name. Personal organisers are now asking that you address them as "personal digital assistants". To be fair, Toshiba's Pocket PC e570 has enough communication, connectivity and memory to keep you organised for an epoch – just be careful what you call it. **\$1249** Call Toshiba on 1800 021 100

FAST TRACK

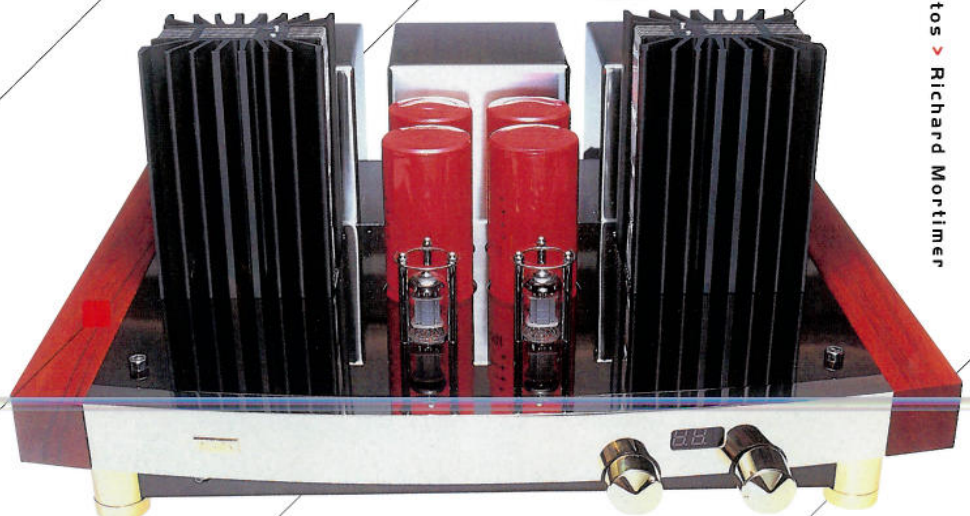
BUSHNELL wants you to use this thing to measure the speed of baseballs, of all things. No, no, no. What you really want to do is get yourself a pair of mirror shades, a massive beer gut and an attitude. Then spend your time swaggering up to cute babes in hot sports cars and drawing, "Do you have any – any – idea, what speed you were doing?" That's what you want to do. **\$544.50** Call Bushnell on 1300 138 098

BLUE COLLARED

ONE thing the folks at **RALPH** are always keen on is a blue button. "We don't care what it does," we tell so-called manufacturers, "has it got a blue button?" Luckily for Sony Ericsson, the T65 phone does. Press its magic button, and you'll get instant Internet access, apparently – but most importantly, it really is nice and blue. **\$775** or plan. Call Ericsson on 1300 650 050

GIMME NO STATIC

IF YOU'RE going to fork out 12 grand for an amp, it might as well look like it's been made in a '50s-asizer and be a permanent, if coincidental, reminder of a human catastrophe. Mind you, at this price, the Pathos Twin Towers has a few other useful features, such as a heady hybrid of tubes and solid-state technology, 35-watt output and a promise of minimal feedback – or "total absence", as they say in audio shops when they want to pull audio chicks. **\$11,990** Call Kedcorp Pty on (02) 9560 6266



Photos > Richard Mortimer

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1. WIDE RECEIVER

COMING on like a cut-down Darth Vader, Harman/Kardon's HK3470 receiver is friendly enough to let you plug in any musical source. With surprising processing power and bandwidth, and costing under a grand, this is surely a better career choice than wandering through space bleating about the Force. \$999, call Convoy on 1800 817 787

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2. EXPAND YOUR BRAIN

THE Palm m125 has many of the features of top-of-the-range organisers, but at a price that won't make you drop to your knees and shake your fist at the sky should it get nicked. There's a zippy processor, 8MB of RAM, a content card slot, and room for more add-ons than an Indian bus in rush hour. \$589, call Palm on 1300 360 558

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3. RING CHANGES

TIME was when "novelty key ring" meant a tiny yellow plastic dog called Minty, which you chewed absent-mindedly at the back of maths class. Now you can stick your keys on the end of a tiny silver MS9 Network Walkman from Sony and sit in the pub chewing your spare memory sticks. \$899, call Sony on 1300 138 246

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4. STRING ALONG

BEFORE you even think about studying the ancient art of air guitar, practise on a real one first. The Ibanez K7 has jumbo frets, dimarzio pick-ups and one extra string to let you play notes so low you'll be crying for no reason. It's currently being put to good use by some dudes from Korn. \$3995, call Australis Music on (02) 9698 4444

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5. AUDI PARTNER

HAVING discarded the Holden Gemini as a model, Toshiba's notebook designers borrowed a few ideas from Audi to create this featherweight good-looker. Thin as a rake that wants to get into modelling, the Portégé 4000 packs in a variety of drives and communications options. \$4840, call Toshiba on 1800 021 100

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6. CAUSE FOR ALARM

THERE'S a burglar settling peacefully behind the wheel of your car, when the Patriot alarm system gives you a call and lets you bother the poor bloke through a speaker while he's trying to drive off. You can also set off an internal siren, take his picture, or worse, recite poetry to him until he goes home in a temper. \$895, call Superalarm on 1300 134 459

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