

FIVE STARS! OUR PICKS FOR PRODUCTS OF THE YEAR

marketnews

consumer electronics made easy!

here's how!

vol.6 no.6



Holiday Issue Mega Gift Guide

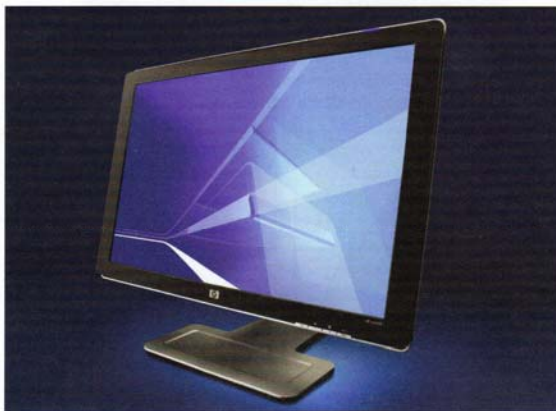
Great ideas for all the audiophiles,
videophiles, shutterbugs, computer
geeks and gadget freaks on your list

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The DreamFlyer Flight Motion Simulator gives you a taste of realistic G-forces when playing Microsoft Flight Simulator.



HP's Pavilion w2408 24-inch LCD monitor has super-high resolution of 1920x1080 pixels.

be rolled up for storage and transport. It's also waterproof, so it can easily be cleaned with water or disinfectant. Could be a great thing for checking recipes in the kitchen, or for use in the workshop. It plugs into a standard USB or PS2 keyboard port, and should work with any version of Windows. *Who it's for:* you tell me!

What the SideWinder does for gamers, **Microsoft's Mobile Memory Mouse 8000** (\$120) does for notebook users. It's a new look at what a mobile mouse can be, with a unique molded shape and reliable laser tracking. The included USB transceiver doubles as a 1GB

flash-memory drive, and the mouse can also be switched to work with a notebook's built-in Bluetooth wireless transceiver. A unique magnetic cable allows the mouse to recharge while it's in use. As long as you're right-handed, this could be the ideal traveling companion. *Who it's for:* notebook users looking for some extra comfort and convenience.

If you find Microsoft's *Flight Simulator* lacking in visceral immersion, you've just got to have the **DreamFlyer Flight Motion Simulator** (\$2,800). As you pilot your plane on the screen, this great Canadian-made product tilts

convincingly from side to side, forward and back, giving you a taste of realistic G-forces. Amazingly, it manages to do this without motors. The trick is a clever set of pivots and counterbalances, which allows your own modest pressure on the joystick to provide all the twisting force required. *Who it's for:* couch pilots looking to fill some extra space in the rec room.

Peripherals

The HP 22-inch monitor I reviewed this issue is a thing of beauty; but its larger 24-inch sibling goes a step beyond, to include just about everything the demanding technophile would want in a monitor. The **HP Pavilion w2408** has all the right specs: 1,000:1 contrast ratio, 400 nits brightness, 5ms response time, screen rotation for portrait-mode and the same excellent hinged base as the 22-incher. But it also pushes resolution up to 1,920x1,200 pixels; that's 30 per cent more desktop pixels to spread out your working documents, and more than enough to fully render 1080p HD video. On top of that, the \$700 price tag is surprisingly attractive; the last time I drooled over monitors of this calibre, they were selling for twice as much. *Who it's for:* computer power-

users who want some elbow-room.

Belkin's Network USB Hub plugs into (and should sit conveniently under) any existing router. The clever peripheral then accepts up to five USB devices that become available anywhere on your network. A friendly Control Center utility (currently Windows-only) lets you connect to any of these devices manually, or automatically every time you boot up. You can even specify a piece of software to launch when the device connects (useful for things like webcams). Most USB devices can only be connected to one computer at a time, but Belkin's software lets you ask another user if they wouldn't mind disconnecting. And printers can be set to connect only when they're actually printing. This \$130 product is a clever way to get more use out of the growing number of USB devices you already own. *Who it's for:* multi-PC homes (or businesses) that need to share USB plug-in devices.

Yes, the **Conceal Power Bar** from Belkin is just a power bar. But it's the first one that actually seems to have some thought in it. The \$50 product includes a hinged cover that lives up to its name, concealing all those unsightly and potentially dangerous electrical



The Network USB adapter from Belkin lets PCs throughout your home share USB devices over your network.