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Posted by Gajitz - 2010/02/07 21:18

Gajitz // Healer, Heal Thyself: Amazing Self-Healing Hydrogel Material Posted: 22 Jan 2010 01:00 PM PST http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/Gajitz/~3/v3S2mf6SVww/?utm_source=feed... When we think of peak oil and how best to cut down on our fossil fuel consumption, most of us only think of transportation alternatives. But the fact is that producing plastics also uses up quite a lot of oil. Could finding an alternative to plastic be a solution to our dwindling oil supply? Researchers at the University of Tokyo think its a step in the right direction, and they think that their new invention could be just the alternative material we need. Takuzo Aida and his team created a hydrogel thats strong enough to support itself on a self-standing bridge (see above), flexible and maybe best of all self-healing. The material is composed of around 95 percent water mixed with small amounts of microscopic clay disks, sodium polyacrylate, and a special molecule called G3 binder. The gel is very easily formed and is ready to use within three minutes. The strength and elasticity of the material depend on how much of each component ingredient is included in the mix. Due to its high water content and ability to heal itself, the new material could be highly useful in tissue engineering and prosthetics. As of now, the components used are still derived from fossil fuels, but hopefully non-petroleum sources could be found to make the compound more environmentally friendly while maintaining its beneficial qualities. [Keep Going - Check out this Great Related Gajitz Article: New Ultra-Slippery Alloy is Second Hardest Known Material](#) Decreasing energy consumption isn't all about finding alternative sources of energy. It's also about increasing the efficiency of existing machines. One of the simplest (yet most challenging) ways to do that is to decrease the friction created by machines. Friction decreases energy efficiency and makes parts wear out quickly, meaning that replacement parts have to be manufactured and installed... [Click Here to Read More](#) // Digital Gastronomy: Food Printer is Must-Have Future Gadget Posted: 22 Jan 2010 07:00 AM PST http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/Gajitz/~3/EIpOuSrcego/?utm_source=feed... Not everyone can be a gourmet chef, but we all still need to eat, right? What that means for most culinary-challenged people is lots and lots of fast food. But in the future, maybe you'll be able to give the drive-through a rest and get a healthy, delicious meal in your kitchen with just a few button presses. No, were not predicting pizza delivery were talking about high-tech food printers. Just like 3D printers, which have quickly gone from sci-fi to reality and now to almost mundane, the 3D food printer may soon become an everyday sight in kitchens. There are actually several designs being developed right now, but this one, called Cornucopia, is from MIT grad students Marcelo Coehlo and Amit Zoran. The contraption works by storing and cooling a variety of ingredients in the containers on top. When the user initiates meal-making, the machine goes to work combining ingredients layer by layer, then heating or cooling them in the chamber below. According to its creators, the machine can produce textures and flavors that wouldnt be possible through traditional cooking. A big part of the design is the health factor. Ultimately, the user controls the quality and origins of the ingredients but doesnt have to learn the fine art of preparing the food. Users can customize foods and entire meals based on parameters like calories, carbohydrates or fat content. For those of us who want to eat healthier but are a bit lost in the kitchen, being able to effortlessly prepare a nutritious meal could be life-changing. The designers have included a user-friendly interface that has intuitive controls and allows for a large degree of customization. The machine is even smart enough to know when a particular ingredient is running low and automatically order more. If all of this sounds a little far-fetched right now, maybe its because this is an entirely new direction for food preparation that hasnt yet been explored, either in real life or even in science fiction. But its not only possible it actually seems likely, given the success of 3D object printers. [Keep Going - Check out this Great Related Gajitz Article: Chess Chicanery: Georgian-Era Hoax Gadget Fooled World](#) Far before there were Nigerians with money accessibility issues, there were inventors who wanted to impress royalty. Perhaps the best technology-related hoax of all time was the Mechanical Turk, a chess-playing machine that won nearly every game it played. While it was presented as an elaborate automaton, it was later revealed to be an equally elaborate fake. The Turk was built in the 1700s. [Click Here to Read More](#) This posting includes a media file:

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Gajitz // Sport Mask Cameras Take Hands-Free Action Pics & Video Posted: 23 Jan 2010 01:00 PM PST http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/Gajitz/~3/ePXFkTmq9O4/?utm_source=feed... Most snow and water athletes realize that taking a digital camera along while skiing, snowboarding or scuba diving is usually a bad idea. Even cameras designed to go underwater are usually bulky and can impede your activities. Liquid Image has a line of sports cameras that lets you capture every thrilling moment while youre out owning the slopes or exploring the reef. The above model is the Summit Series Snow Camera Goggle, a camera/camcorder that lets you snap pictures or record video while playing in the snow. It has 16GB of built-in memory and you can add another 16GB via the micro-SD card slot. Lights on the inside of the goggles give you info about the cameras current settings. And for the other half of the year, the Scuba Series HD Wide Angle lets you catch the action in the water. Like the Snow Camera, the Scuba mask gives you 720p video and 5 MP still shots. Its good up to a depth of 130 ft and lets you capture your underwater adventure in high definition and with a wide field of vision. Of course, you may look so weird that all of the underwater wildlife scam as soon as they see you, but at least you'll get some high-def shots of them high-tailing it to safety.

Keep Going - Check out this Great Related Gajitz Article: [The Picture of Weird: 5 Crazy Cameras of Past and Future](#)
Cameras have had a long and varied history, from the huge boxy contraptions that you had to stand perfectly still in front of for a few minutes to the tiny things that fit inside our cell phones today. We think we know what to expect out of a camera, though - which is why these five weird camera designs are so surprising. The Konica Kanpei looks like any other digital camera at first, b... [Click Here to Read More](#)

Wars: 6 Bizarre Retrofuturistic War Machines Posted: 23 Jan 2010 07:00 AM PST
http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/Gajitz/~3/blgJWkJVBM/?utm_source=feed...

The first half of the 20th century was an unsure time for much of the world, with wars and political unrest causing fear and uncertainty all around the globe. Its not surprising that many of the predictions for the future at that time had to do with military and weapons advances. Many predictions, like the above giant, rolling hamster wheel of death and stationary gun turrets that could swivel side to side but apparently not up and down, were completely ludicrous. And others were even more silly than that. The two above predictions would put unarmored soldiers in very awkward positions. The first, a telescoping artillery tower, looks like a cross between a cherry picker basket and a fire truck ladder. It also looks like the perfect way to tell the enemies exactly where you are and give their snipers some great target practice or just to easily get rid of the soldier that no one likes. Why else would you send him way up there with no armor? The helicopter cavalry idea is slightly more practical, but the men riding the personal copters still have no armor. And maybe were just being old-fashioned, but isnt it a lot safer to shoot enemies from a distance rather than having to hover directly over them? And finally, some of the silliest ideas to come out of World War I were these concepts for reusing old battleships and submarines. According to the dreamers who thought these up, you could simply strap some wheels or tracks onto old sea vessels and they would instantly become land tanks. It makes sense, in a way, since metal for building new machines was hard to come by. But given the immense size and weight of these vessels, it hardly seems likely that this is even remotely possible.

Keep Going - Check out this Great Related Gajitz Article: [The Future of the Past: 16 Retro-Futuristic Vehicle Designs](#)
We're all still waiting on our flying cars, jet packs, robot maids and all of the other awesomeness that previous generations foresaw for us. Nowhere was our ingenuity more apparent in those days than in the futuristic vehicle designs that just kept coming. Some of the best places to find those futuristic automotive designs were on the covers of magazines geared toward creative and scientific ... [Click Here to Read More](#)

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Gajitz [Wanna Play? Humanoid Bot Baby Teaches While it Learns](#) Posted: 24 Jan 2010 05:00 PM PST
http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/Gajitz/~3/A4r_dbIDYWc/?utm_source=feed...
Understanding how babies develop is an important part of understanding how the human brain works. The quest to explore the development of children led researchers at the University of California, San Diego to build this utterly terrifying baby robot. In cooperation with Japanese robotics firm Kokoro Co., Ltd., the team constructed this rather complicated machine that is meant to mimic the actions of a one-year-old human child. Unfortunately, they decided to give it a creepy rubber face and no skin on the rest of its body, so it looks much more like a nightmare than a child. The robot, named Diego-san, has over 60 moving parts in its body. Its five-fingered hands are able to grasp objects, and the robot can even stand up from a sitting (in a chair) position. The head contains more than 20 moving parts that allow Diego-san to create facial expressions. The head also contains high-res cameras in the eyes, a speaker in the mouth, and accelerometers in the ears that detect the robots movement and position. In addition to helping researchers understand how babies acquire motor skills in the first year of life, Diego-san will impart important clues about how babies learn various facial expressions and interact with their immediate environment. While all of this research will undoubtedly lead to some important discoveries, we cant help but think that one day, this thing will have a massive fit and destroy the lab and everyone in it. Godspeed, you foolish, foolish researchers.

Keep Going - Check out this Great Related Gajitz Article: [Baby Steps: Newborns Cry in Parents Native Language](#)
Every parent knows that babies use different cries to communicate different things. But now researchers say that babies' cries actually mimic the native language of their parents, a cue that they pick up while still in the womb. The study, published in the journal Current Biology, looks at the cries of 60 healthy babies of French and German couples. The research team, from the University of Wu... [Click Here to Read More](#)

Augmented Reality Game With Cheating Exploding Virtual Hand Posted: 24 Jan 2010 01:00 PM PST
http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/Gajitz/~3/CurncZzmB7Y/?utm_source=feed...
Augmented reality is truly awesome, but unfortunately it hasnt found a wealth of practical applications just yet. That is, until now. In cooperation with Swedish wearable magazine T-post, offbeat designer Marc Stromberg created a t-shirt that allows wearers to play a virtual game of rock paper scissors with an animated hand coming straight out of their chests. All you need to do is put on the shirt, then go to the game page and make sure your webcam is turned on. Your image will appear on the screen, along with the creepy animated hand that will challenge you to what will probably be the weirdest game of rock paper scissors youll ever play. Of course, if you dont have the t-shirt you can print out a PDF file that will achieve the same thing but that does seem slightly less fun.

Keep Going - Check out this Great Related Gajitz Article: [iPhone Augmented Reality Droid Too Awesome For Earth](#)
iPhone apps are good for keeping most of us occupied and well out of the dangerous sphere of social interaction, but how awesome would it be if you could use your iPhone as a controller for a real-world game? This drone, created by Bluetooth headset company Parrot (yeah, we don't get it,

either) is controlled by your iPhone and can take you head-first into an awesome augmented reality airborne...

[Click Here to Read More](#) // NASAs Ultra-Efficient, Super-Quiet, One-Man Electric

Aircraft Posted: 24 Jan 2010 07:00 AM PST

http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/Gajitz/~3/PtZkNksGJyg/?utm_source=feed... We say pretty often how bitter we are that personal jet packs, which were predicted to be commonplace by now, have never actually come to pass. But something even better is being developed, and we are officially placated. NASAs Puffin concept looks a lot like its awkward, clumsy-looking namesake, but its full of amazing technology that could revolutionize not only military transportation, but personal transportation as well. The Puffin is a single-person stealth VTOL (vertical take-off and landing) vehicle with an electric engine. In theory, it will be able to cruise at around 150 miles per hour and sprint at close to 300 miles per hour. And since electric motors need much less air and cooling than internal combustion engines, the craft would have virtually no altitude limitation. The biggest limitation at the moment would be the battery: with a range of just 50 miles, it wouldnt leave much time for anything. But batteries are rapidly decreasing in size and increasing in density, so engineers figure that the range could be doubled by 2017. The rather unusual-looking craft would be especially handy for military applications. Its extremely low heat signature would make it difficult to detect in the air, and the fact that its whisper quiet doesnt hurt, either. In fact, because its so quiet similar technology may be used for commercial transportation in the future. The lack of loud, emissions-heavy aircraft engines would mean that airports could be situated closer to city centers and even residential areas. And if we cant have personal jet packs, then personal aircraft would be the next best thing. Keep Going - Check out this Great Related Gajitz Article:

Double Up! Ultra-Efficient Electric Car Fits Two to a City Lane Futuristic city car concepts often involve reinventing the wheel, as it were: changing the entire infrastructure of roads to suit a new generation of smaller, more eco-friendly cars. While that would be a handy solution to some problems, its completely impractical. The cost to replace all of the streets in the world would be outrageously prohibitive. So we like to see concept cars that take t...

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Gajitz // Our Future Robot Overlords? 3 Amazing Cybernetic Organs Posted: 25 Jan 2010 05:00 PM PST http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/Gajitz/~3/ZUHR00FOXIQ/?utm_source=feed... Who says the robot assimilation will be all ray guns and smoldering Earth? Maybe the robots will take over the human race from the inside out. We joke, of course the medical cybernetics field is no real threat to the human race. In fact, these three amazing artificial organs can one day save countless lives. The Biolung from MC3 is an extremely compact, functional artificial lung. A far cry from the iron lungs of decades past, this device is small enough to be implanted in the patients chest, helping them to recover from injury or illness or keeping them alive until donor lungs are available. The Biolung is currently being reviewed for approval by the FDA. You certainly wouldnt win any fashion showdowns wearing this contraption, but for people with kidney disease it could be life-changing. The wearable artificial kidney would replace long, tedious and tiring dialysis treatments during which patients are stuck in a chair or bed. Patients with a wearable kidney would be able to go about their normal daily activities without interruption much as they did with their own natural kidneys. The device performs dialysis 24/7 and weighs just 10 pounds, including batteries. The technology is still being developed, but with so many people behind the idea its moving along quickly. The first artificial stomach was created by a team of British scientists back in 2006 for around \$1.8 million. Its not meant to be strapped to a human body to digest food; rather, its the most sophisticated way we have to study how digestion really works. Previous stomach models havent functioned in a very realistic way, so this is a bona fide breakthrough. The artificial stomach can digest around 24 ounces of food (about half the capacity of a human stomach) and will help scientists understand how the human body breaks down and metabolizes food. The applications are vast: obesity cures, more efficient diabetes treatments, and supplements or medications that can be more precisely time-released in the gut.

Keep Going - Check out this Great Related Gajitz Article: Tongue Tech: Artificial Larynx Tracks Tongue Transit to Talk It's a sad fact that thousands of people each year must have their larynges removed due to disease. Until now, the artificial larynx options have been limited to those that give the user a somewhat disturbing robot voice. But two teams of researchers are working on solutions that could help artificial larynx recipients speak in a more human way. A team at the University of the Witwatersrand ... [Click Here to Read More](#) //

Bricklin: The Canadian Sports Car That Crashed and Burned Posted: 25 Jan 2010 01:00 PM PST http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/Gajitz/~3/LLJmnVKEGMc/?utm_source=feed... Its hard to understand how a car company employing the designer of the original Batmobile could go wrong. But Bricklin Motors amounted to little more than a couple of years of wasted time and a lot of debt in the end. Started in 1974 by American millionaire Malcom Bricklin (who, incidentally, had previously founded Subaru of America), the Canadian-built machines were supposed to be safe and economical sports cars. They boasted a ton of safety features and the worlds only powered gull-wing doors. But the visionary amateur car designers didnt take into account the massive amounts of weight all those safety features would add, resulting in a clunky car. In addition, the acrylic fiberglass body wasnt designed well and was prone to failure. Add to that the faulty radiators, and it was a recipe for failure. (image via: Bricklin Auto Sport) But the icing on the fail cake was the fact that Bricklin borrowed over \$4.5 million (Canadian) from the government under shady circumstances, then sold the cars at a significant loss: the manufacturing cost was \$16,000

but the dealers cost was \$5000 each. That amounted to gigantic, nonsensical losses. Overall, only 2,854 of the cars were manufactured before the company folded in 1976. The Bricklin SV-1 (which stood for safety vehicle one) wasn't fated to fade into obscurity, though: the car still has a large fan following, and approximately 1100 of them still exist. Canada is still a big supporter of the failed car, and in 1996 issued a commemorative Bricklin stamp. Then in 2003, the Canadian Mint decided to commemorate the historic car once again with a \$20 sterling silver Bricklin coin. The company may have been an overall failure, but it apparently has a permanent place in the hearts of Canadians.

Keep Going - Check out this Great Related Gajitz Article: [Sing the Auto Electric: 4 Renault Zero Emission Cars by 2011](#) Car buyers in Europe will soon have four new swoon-worthy electric Renault cars to green their driveways - and the rest of us are green with envy. Renault announced their new fully electric line, called Renault ZE (zero emission), at the 2009 Frankfurt Motor Show. The line consists of a tiny two-person (one in front, one in back) urban car, a light commercial vehicle designed for professional... [Click Here to Read More](#) //

Deathly, Fragile: 3D Glass Sculptures of Killer Pathogens Posted: 25 Jan 2010 07:00 AM PST http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/Gajitz/~3/UaXxBFYLYkY/?utm_source=feed... Most of us have seen the brightly-colored scientific images of viruses and germs. And if we think about it, we realize that the real things are probably not as visually interesting as these images would have us believe. But the typical person doesn't think about these things often. Luke Jerram is not the typical person. Jerram, a multi-disciplinary British artist, wondered if the public's perception of diseases would change if the publicly-available images of them were to change. He worked with numerous specialists from virologists to glassblowers he created these incredible 3D images of the microscopic invaders which often make our lives difficult. Above are two representations of the H1N1 (swine flu) virus. The Glass Microbiology series points out the fragile beauty of the things that harm us. But these pieces offer no sympathy; only a colorless, unemotional view of biological organisms. Jerram, who happens to be colorblind, wondered if there were coloring conventions for those scientific images we often see depicting various viruses. Some are colored for scientific reasons, but some are colored only for aesthetic purposes. He wanted to know if the public perception of a virus could be swayed simply by swapping colors to make it appear more friendly or more deadly. Above: SARS and smallpox. By removing color entirely, the artist manages to bring the eye to the composition of each virus. More than just scientific study guides or things of beauty, they inspire viewers to truly consider the impact each pathogen has on humankind, and the relationship between the pieces' beauty and their somber meaning. Above: HIV and e. coli. Each piece is roughly one million times actual size. Jerram has run into problems with some viruses: they simply can't be re-created in glass. Their composition would cause them to collapse under their own weight. In addition to exploring the relationship between these deadly organisms and their exotic appearances, Jerram is exploring the very tangible relationship between scientific knowledge and artistic possibilities. Above: untitled future mutation. Keep Going - Check out this Great Related Gajitz Article: [Batteries Not Included: Adorable Junk Robot Sculptures](#) What do you do with your old, broken appliances? Most people throw them in the trash. But eco-artist Mario Caicedo Langer sees something awesome in every discarded gadget: a robot just waiting to come out. He takes old kitchen appliances, cell phones, computer parts, video game controllers, and various trash and creates adorable robots with blinking eyes and moving limbs. Langer, who ... [Click Here to Read More](#)

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Gajitz // Seriously Chill: BMW H2 On Ice Is Coolest Art Car Ever Posted: 26 Jan 2010 05:00 PM PST http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/Gajitz/~3/DlpsEF5bxM/?utm_source=feed... Would you believe that this odd cocoon-shaped object is actually a car? In fact, it's one of BMW's hydrogen-powered race cars under a sheath of steel mesh, stainless steel mirrors, and many layers of ice. Created by Danish artist Olafur Eliasson, the project was sponsored by BMW and is meant to show the connection between cars and global climate change. The car, entitled Your Mobile Expectations, was part of BMW's Art Car Series, which invites artists to modify the luxury cars. Eliasson's contribution was displayed in a special walk-in freezer room at the Pinakothek der Moderne in Munich. The project took the artist three years to develop. It involved removing the body of a BMW H2 and replacing it with a skin of steel mesh and reflective metal. About 2000 liters of water were then sprayed over the new skin, forming a delicate layer of ice atop the reflective material. The artist believes that his piece reminds viewers of their unique relationship with the vehicles they drive and the planet on which they live. The exhibit is striking, to be sure, but unless that giant freezer room was powered by green energy, were not sure the exhibit had the effect the artist was going for. Still, as art cars go, this is certainly one of the most unique. Keep Going - Check out this Great Related Gajitz Article: [Trashy Art or Artsy Trash? Bonkers Yonkers Garbage Trucks](#) We don't typically associate garbage trucks with beauty, but the City of Yonkers commissioned art wraps for six of its Department of Public Works vehicles. This unique art project was designed to raise environmental awareness, and it was the first of its kind in the US. The top vehicle was designed by Yonkers high school student Patricia Villate, who was one of 30 students to submit d... [Click Here to Read More](#) // Time for a Word? Unique Outdoor Clock Spells the Time Posted: 26 Jan 2010 01:00 PM PST http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/Gajitz/~3/cHW66rod-sA/?utm_source=feed... Public outdoor clocks are often great, looming affairs perched on the tops of tall, ornate towers. They may be beautiful to look at, but they do tend to detract from the architecture around them. Nicolas Le Moigne designed this unique public clock for the city of Geneva; its low profile and neutral colors help it to almost blend into the building to which it is attached. Rather than

using a traditional clock face or even digital numerals to spell out the time, the clock uses words. This unique approach is novel for a public clock, and the end result seems more sophisticated than most. The display changes when needed using a rotary flap system. The low-impact letters make it beautiful to look at, but the understated design of the public clock will mean that it won't compete with the historic and lovely architecture of Geneva. [Keep Going - Check out this Great Related Gajitz Article: Word to Your Wall Clock: Letters Spell Out the Time](#) Aren't you tired of all of those numbers cluttering up your clock's face? Then it's about time you got the Qlocktwo by Biegert & Funk, because it's got none of that nonsense. It spells out the time in clear, plain English...or German, if you prefer. The sleek acrylic face features lines of letters that spell out the time in five-minute increments, and four dots in the corners let you know ...

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to Artsy? Posted: 26 Jan 2010 07:00 AM PST

http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/Gajitz/~3/QsdRg6_X39s/?utm_source=feed... Back in the early days of the internet, animated GIFs were the bane of just about everyone. Their annoying, jarring graphics and often painfully bright colors were enough to make anyone crazy. Particularly irritating was when they were used as avatars in chat rooms or forums, and we had to watch their stupid dancing polar bear dancing or sneezing kitten a thousand times before finally just leaving the page in frustration. Some people still use the unfortunately annoying animated GIFs, but there's a whole new crop of artists who are using this long-maligned vehicle to express their creativity. The above GIFs, from artist David Ope (also known online as dvdp) are markedly more mature than those that we raised in the 80s and 90s remember. Their existence doesn't seem to center on the desire to draw attention or to frustrate; rather, they are simply beautiful, mesmerizing pieces of art. There's a certain amount of nostalgia in these pieces; it seems to suggest that the creators grew up in the era where the animated GIF was an ever-present Web element. And although it's largely fallen out of favor in Web design (thankfully) this new, more mature generation of the animated GIF is taking it in an entirely new, extremely creative direction. That's a common theme in this new generation of animated GIFs: they are more art than novelty. Anyone who has seen a tiled animation used as a background for a web page knows that the constant looping motion can quickly become intolerable. But the animated GIFs being created today are more of an underground art movement than a momentary distraction. The above animations from Sweet GIFs come from several different contributors, indicating that there is a thriving community of artists and designers dedicated to preserving and promoting the image format. [Keep Going - Check out this Great Related Gajitz Article: Math + Art = Retro-Futuristic Minimalist Space Posters](#) These posters advertising the International Year of Astronomy 2009 are truly works of art. Would you believe they were created by an amateur as a personal project? The IYA 2009 was coordinated by the United Nations as a year-long celebration of astronomy culminating with the 400th anniversary of Galileo's invention of the telescope. When mathematician Simon Page heard about the event, he was s... [Click Here to Read More](#)

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Gajitz // [Roll With It: Mobile Vaccination Kit Takes Jabs on the Road](#) Posted: 27 Jan 2010 05:00 PM PST http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/Gajitz/~3/Qnjd63w-y20/?utm_source=feed... According to world health officials, vaccination is among the most important steps we can take to keep the population healthy. Unfortunately, in some areas of the world it's not practical to set up standard vaccination clinics. Either there is no medical infrastructure in place, or residents would find it too difficult to travel to clinics. Columbian designer Andrea Figueroa came up with this mobile vaccination kit which would allow for vaccinations to go to the patients. The kit can be work as a backpack or pulled along behind like a rolling suitcase. It's more or less a self-contained clinic; it contains all of the necessary equipment to provide vaccinations, or it can be used as a standard portable medical kit. There's not much information describing what's going on in the pictures, but it looks like the bottom portion of the kit pulls out to become a step for the patient to stand on. Simple innovations like this could help save millions of lives when an effective malaria vaccine becomes widely available, and it could be used right now for any number of routine vaccinations. Since people living in remote areas of the world often don't have access to effective medical care, bringing medicine to them could be our best chance of curbing certain infectious diseases. [Keep Going - Check out this Great Related Gajitz Article: Roll With it: Flexible, Space-Saving Roll-Up Laptop Concept](#) Maybe one-piece, continuous screen laptops aren't just one designer's flight of fancy after all. Recently, Orkin Design debuted a roll-up laptop design that, when packaged up in its little shoulder-strap-equipped tube, looks kind of like a narrow yoga mat. But when the Rolltop is all set up and ready to go, it looks a lot like the flexible MacBook concept you saw here a while ago. The I... [Click Here to Read More](#) // [Designer Disgrace](#)

Old Book Holds High-Tech Surprise Posted: 27 Jan 2010 01:00 PM PST

http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/Gajitz/~3/63gb6wfcy_s/?utm_source=feed... If you're going to go ahead and spend all of that money on a MacBook, chances are you'll want to keep it around for a while. This awesome case is the best way we've found to do that while still maintaining your strict GQ (Geek Quotient). The Bookbook from Twelve South is custom-made to fit the MacBook and MacBook Pro, but it's not one of those boring neoprene numbers: it's a sweet hardcover leather-bound book laptop case. It looks like the hard covers of the book would give decent shock absorption, and the velvet interior will keep your prized possession from developing any horrifying scratches. Plus, working with the cover on will make you look like the geekiest geek to ever geek out on a MacBook in public. And

what better disguise for an expensive laptop than an old book? Some unscrupulous fellow at the local coffee shop may be all too willing to wlaak off with your expensive new laptop, but will he bother grabbing a dusty old tome? Dual zippers that look like bookmarks add to the convincing disguise. For the extraordinarily gifted crafter, this might not be too hard to throw together at home. But for the rest of us, Twelve South can hook you up with one of your own for \$79.99. Keep Going - Check out this Great Related Gajitz Article: Trashy Tech: Disposable, Recyclable Paper Laptop Concept As our society trends more and more toward disposable gadgets (like throwaway cell phones and disposable cameras), some people are thinking ahead to what else could be made for short-term use. Designer Je Sung Park's disposable laptop concept takes the throwaway trend to a whole new level: one where a computer, a gadget storing some of our most personal data, becomes even more transitory than ... Click Here to Read More // Smoking Hot Fuel: Tobacco Could Be Next Big Biofuel Crop Posted: 27 Jan 2010 07:00 AM PST http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/Gajitz/~3/lwNDTpLG5pl/?utm_source=feed... With smoking bans and rising cigarette prices forcing many smokers to give up the habit, tobacco farmers have been worried about their livelihoods. That may soon change, though: researchers at Thomas Jefferson University recently figured out a way to increase the oil in tobacco leaves through the magic of genetic engineering. The schools Biotechnology Foundation Laboratories say that tobacco is an ideal biofuel that hasnt been adequately utilized in the past, despite the fact that it generates biofuel more efficiently than most other crops. The main reason tobacco isnt widely used as a fuel yet is because most of the needed oil is produced in the seeds. But since the tobacco plant doesnt produce a large amount of seeds, its not economically feasible to use them alone. So the researchers figured out how to engineer the plants to produce up to 20 times the normal amount of oil in their leaves. One of the barriers to biofuel becoming a widespread replacement for fossil fuels is the fact that most biofuel requires crop space that would otherwise be used for food. But tobacco isnt a food crop, and there are plenty of tobacco farms already in place, so the switch shouldnt be too difficult. But whether farmers would make the same amount of money for biofuel tobacco as theyre getting for their crops now may be a sticking point. Who knows maybe tobacco lobbyists will even try to turn this development into a positive mark on Big Tobaccos blemished public image. If the fuel ever makes it into production, would we have ex-smokers cuddling up to tailpipes just to get a whiff of their dark mistress? Keep Going - Check out this Great Related Gajitz Article: Delicious Biofuel: Power Your Car on Watermelon Juice (image via: Offbeat Earth) One of the best parts of summer is the endless juicy watermelon. But the sweet fruit might be good for more than just eating and the occasional seed-spitting contest, according to the US Department of Agriculture. They have recently released new research pointing out the large amount of easily fermentable sugars in watermelon, making it ideal to use in the production ... Click Here to Read More

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Gajitz // Earbuds Falling Out? Nip it in the Custom-Sized (Yur)bud Posted: 28 Jan 2010 01:00 PM PST http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/Gajitz/~3/B0jhNNZvJz8/?utm_source=feed... Earbuds, were told, are wonderful things. Theyre much less clunky than traditional headphones or earphones, making them easier all-around for everyday use. But the problem is that weve never found a pair of earbuds that dont fall out and/or cause major pain in the ears. And because they dont fit the way theyre supposed to and theyre always falling out or falling out of position, were forced to turn the volume way up. Those problems may now be solved by these fascinating little earbud enhancers called Yurbuds. Yurbuds are little silicon adapters that fit onto most types of earbuds and Bluetooth headsets. Theyre designed to help the devices stay put in your ears, even during vigorous physical activity. But they arent just one-size-fits-all; after ordering a set of the enhancers, youre prompted to take a picture of your ear with a reference item: either an Apple earbud or a US quarter. Based on the relation of the reference item to your ear, Yurbuds scanning software will determine what size your ear canal is. Then you get a pair of the little gizmos that you just slip on over your earbuds, and theyre just the right size for your particular ears. Not a bad deal for \$19.99. Keep Going - Check out this Great Related Gajitz Article: Pocket-Size Power: Potent Penny-Sized Nuclear Battery Always looking for better and more efficient ways to power our stuff, researchers at the University of Missouri recently created the smallest, most efficient nuclear battery ever. They chose to work with a radioisotope battery rather than a chemical battery because the radioisotope battery provides a drastically higher power density. Its secret lies in its liquid semiconductor; solid semicondu... Click Here to Read More // The Back Again: A Visual Guide to Every Mars Mission Posted: 28 Jan 2010 07:00 AM PST http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/Gajitz/~3/bNPcvi0-RNQ/?utm_source=feed... Since the 1950s, humans have been sending spacecraft, animals and ourselves into space in an effort to understand our universe. Not surprisingly, a lot of our space exploration has involved checking out the other planets in our solar system. Mars has been of particular interest, partially because its so close, but lately because weve seen some evidence of life-supporting potential there. Weve sent so many missions to Mars, in fact, that Bryan Christie Design put together a beautiful infographic to help us keep track of them all. (Click the picture below to see a full-size version.) Some of these missions have been successful, and some never reached their destination. And although any space mission is still somewhat risky, weve gotten considerably better at completing missions successfully. Just in the last decade, the success rate has increased significantly. (It should be noted that the Russian Phobos-Grunt expedition which was planned for 2009 has been delayed until 2011.) Future missions to the red planet will continue to provide even more useful information about one

of our closest neighbors and maybe one day we'll get to see it for ourselves. Keep Going - Check out this Great Related Gajitz Article: High Times: The High-Res Camera Showing us Mars Face The landscapes of other planets have long been the source of fantasies and speculation, but in the last few decades we've finally been able to get a close-up view of the surfaces of alien worlds. NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (MRO) has been orbiting Mars since 2006, and on board is the High Resolution Imaging Science Experiment camera, or HiRISE. It takes photographs of the fascinating la... Click Here to Read More

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Gajitz // Caution, Exploding Machinery: 3 Artfully Exploded Cars Posted: 29 Jan 2010 01:00 PM PST http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/Gajitz/~3/BT50ycKFT3Y/?utm_source=feed... (image via: Avi Abrams) Whether you're a gearhead or a gadget junkie, there's something truly appealing about seeing every last little piece of a car deconstructed and laid out neatly. Automobiles are fascinating machines, with tons of tiny pieces that do unexpected things, with each part serving a purpose. And knowing that every functional part of a car is the result of a century of hard work and refinement is kind of awe-inspiring. (image via: Prius Chat) These cars were carefully deconstructed and laid out for the sake of art. Seeing every bit that makes a car tick is like taking a look inside a secret world. Just like any other complex machine, cars are full of parts both small and large that all work together to make the overall functions go exactly the way they should and its oddly poetic, in a mechanical sort of way. (image via: Damian Ortega) These exploded views take an object that's ever-present in our everyday lives and give it an entirely new (to most of us) spin. This is truly art for the geek heart. It kind of makes us wonder what everything else would look like in detailed exploded view. Now where are our screwdrivers? Keep Going - Check out this Great Related Gajitz Article: Sing the Auto Electric: 4 Renault Zero Emission Cars by 2011 Car buyers in Europe will soon have four new swoon-worthy electric Renault cars to green their driveways - and the rest of us are green with envy. Renault announced their new fully electric line, called Renault ZE (zero emission), at the 2009 Frankfurt Motor Show. The line consists of a tiny two-person (one in front, one in back) urban car, a light commercial vehicle designed for professional... Click Here to Read More // Curiously Sim

Easy Hacks to Transform Old Altoids Tins Posted: 29 Jan 2010 07:00 AM PST http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/Gajitz/~3/bhqOp5_HLhk/?utm_source=feed... Ah, the ubiquitous Altoids tin. We love their curious mintiness, but we can never figure out what to do with the empty tins when we're done. They seem far too cool to just toss into the recycling bin, but our stash is quickly building up. Luckily, everyone else who loves Altoids has the same problem, and many of them were smart enough to figure out what to do with those tins and kind enough to post instructions for the rest of us. This simple USB charger uses 4 AA batteries, an Altoids tin, and some miscellaneous parts that will cost you about \$30 altogether. And when you're done, you can charge your USB device anywhere just make sure you take some spare, fully-charged AA batteries with you if you're going to be away from outlets for a while. The instructions for making this Altoids tin bug robot are slightly more complicated, but well worth the effort. It'll cost you around \$10, and for those experienced in putting electronics together it should take around 10 minutes. If you're tired of having to take your headphones off and stop your music to answer phone calls, this hack is happy to hook you up with a solution. It's a switcher box that lets you route your phone's speaker to your headphones when a call comes in, while a microphone lets you keep up your end of the conversation. And the whole time, your music is still going in the other ear. This one is probably best suited for the more advanced electronics geeks out there. Finally, an Altoids tin project for beginners. Using a few simple parts found in any friendly Radio Shack, you can turn that tin into a helpful little flashlight. Keep Going - Check out this Great Related Gajitz Article: What You Audio Can Do: Clever Super-Simple Speakers iPod speakers are generally very stylized and modern-looking, so it's unusual to see one that goes for bare-bones, simplistic design. The Audio Can speaker from designer Dean Brown is about as simple and non-stylized as you can get: it uses a plain tin can to house a battery-powered speaker. Used individually or in a daisy-chained system, the can-clad speakers offer a rather playful app... Click Here to Read More

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Gajitz // On the Other Side of the Screen, It Looks Like a Light Cycle Posted: 30 Jan 2010 01:00 PM PST http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/Gajitz/~3/gLBvON475EE/?utm_source=feed... The title, of course, refers to quote from the original Tron: On the other side of the screen, it all looks so easy. For all of us who have been drooling over the fantastic-looking trailer for the sequel, Tron Legacy, here's something else to torture us for the remainder of the year until the movie finally hits theaters. A life-size model of one of the light cycles to be used in the movie was caught on camera recently, and it looks absolutely wicked. It was made by toy manufacturer Spin Master,

which has the contract for the toys and action figures associated with the new Tron. We haven't been this excited about a new movie vehicle since the Tumbler. Sadly, Spin Master doesn't plan to sell this model. And unfortunately, we probably won't see any real-world counterparts anytime soon. You will, however, be able to buy toy versions of it closer to the movie's release. We know what we want for Christmas already. Keep Going - Check out this Great Related Gajitz Article: Yes, It Does Come in Black: Rad DIY Batmobile Tumbler When the average person sees a sweet fantasy car in a movie, we admire it, maybe think about what it would feel like to drive it, but ultimately realize it's just a movie. Not Bob Dullam, though - he went out and built his dream car. That car just happened to be the Tumbler from Batman Begins. Dullam is a sculptor, and he knew that other people had built sports cars, so he figured that ... Click Here to Read More // Cut the Cord: Wireless, Wearable Prevents RSI Posted: 30 Jan 2010 07:00 AM PST http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/Gajitz/~3/ba-teMPp-vY/?utm_source=feed... The humble computer mouse is something that most of us use every day, but few of us think about. Those of us who don't use the traditional mouse usually use either a trackball or trackpad, both of which hold the hand in an unnatural position, similar to how it would be held if you were using a mouse. And it's been this way since the mouse was introduced in the 80s, so not many of us think about it. But the way we do computer mice might be set to change for the better, and very soon. The AirMouse is set to be released within the next year for \$129. And besides looking super futuristic, it might actually help you avoid repetitive stress injuries from constant mouse use. The wearable device only works as a mouse when your hand is in a flat, neutral position, so it encourages good hand posture and you can continue to wear the glove even when you're typing. And because it's wireless and can go up to a week between charges, you won't be tethered to a cord. ...

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Gajitz // Its About Time: Multifunctional Antique Pocket Sundials Posted: 31 Jan 2010 05:00 PM PST http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/Gajitz/~3/qSk1kFQ6k90/?utm_source=feed... Most of us tell time these days by looking at a watch strapped to a wrist or by pulling a cell phone out of a pocket. But the timepieces from centuries ago were much more interesting. The one above is from 16th century Germany and now resides in the Beyer Watch and Clock Museum in Zurich. It's a multifunctional piece that included a gunpowder flask, compass and sundial. The rosewood flask is decorated with ornaments of brass and bone, and at the top is the bone funnel used to insert the gunpowder. Beneath the small lid in the center of the piece is a sundial; a string gnomon is exposed by opening the lid and can tell the hours from 6 am to 6 pm. This gold-plated brass sundial was made in the same time period as the above multifunctional pocket sundial, but it's missing the compass that used to be part of its design. It was excavated in 1997 at the former site of the Mission de Santa Cruz San Saba in Texas. The mission was destroyed by attacking Native Americans in 1758, but the sundial was made 177 years prior, making it a valuable heirloom even then. Why it was left behind and not taken as a prize is a mystery, but it's lucky for us that the fascinating gadget was left behind for future generations to admire and study. Keep Going - Check out this Great Related Gajitz Article: Antique Watch + LEDs = Stunning Steampunk Pocket Watch We've seen plenty of new gadgets masquerading as old ones, but none of them have achieved the feat quite as gracefully as this one. Paul Pounds took a broken antique pocket watch, gutted it, and replaced the display with a custom face and LEDs in place of the second, minute and hour hands. The result is a gorgeous timepiece that is functional and delightfully retrofuturistic. A cell phone... Click Here to Read More // Strike of Genius: New Type of Lightning in Volcano Eruptions Posted: 31 Jan 2010 01:00 PM PST http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/Gajitz/~3/jPYGGsz0z48/?utm_source=feed... Lightning is a fascinating natural force that's captivated our attention for millennia. We thought scientists had a handle on how it all worked, but nature still has a few surprises for us. Like when volcano seismologist Steven McNutt and a team of colleagues recently discovered an entirely new type of lightning. Intrigued by lightning that accompanied the 1992 Mt. Spurr eruption, McNutt decided to study volcano-related lightning. He got his chance in March of 2009 when Alaska's Mt. Redoubt erupted. The research team had to set up their Lightning Mapping Arrays some 50 miles from the volcano in order to have access to electricity and internet. But their equipment - essentially old TV antennae tuned to pick up the frequency lightning radiates from (channel 3, if you're wondering) - was still able to detect the lightning occurring inside the volcanic ash plume during the volcano's eruptions. What the team discovered was basically a new type of dry lightning. Dry lightning forms from the same types of polarizing particles as thunderstorm lightning, but requires no precipitation. What scientists don't quite understand yet is how the ash plume of an erupting volcano becomes electrified. That's something that Steven McNutt and his colleagues, as well as many other interested teams, hope to discover soon. In the meantime, they say it's clear that the lightning that accompanies a volcanic eruption is a distinctive, previously-unnamed type that deserves much future research. Keep Going - Check out this Great Related Gajitz Article: Massive Volcanic Eruption Seen From Space Station Volcanoes are a devastating force that can rip apart the land around them, cover the surrounding area in ash, even temporarily block out the sun's light. We've all probably seen pictures and videos of volcano eruptions, but this image of Sarychev Peak on Matua Island erupting is even more special. It was captured on June 12, 2009 by the International Space Station, which just happened to be in... Click Here to Read More // More Than a Car: Drifting, Room-Extending Vehicle Posted: 31 Jan 2010 07:00 AM PST http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/Gajitz/~3/Ev23qcX-IVw/?utm_source=feed... Automotive industrial designers have

been getting quite creative with their ideas in the last decade or so; many of them are tending toward alternative energy vehicles, alternative propulsion systems, and even entirely alien configurations for the interiors of the vehicles. But this futuristic Peugeot concept from Roman Misiuk combines all of those changes into one radically different concept. Its a car, but its also an extension of an urban apartment home. The Metromorph design aims to combat the lack of parking space in densely-populated metropolitan areas. It functions just like a normal car when on the streets, with motors in two of the body-concealed wheels. But when the driver arrives at his apartment building, the car uses a track system to transform into a vertical elevator that takes the driver to the appropriate level of the building. The interior seats move and rotate as the cars orientation changes from horizontal to vertical. The car then takes the driver and passenger directly to the dock on the outside of the appropriate apartment, and then remains there as a sort of balcony. If the driver needs to park in a traditional parking lot, the scissor doors open in a sort of bug-wing pattern, above the cars body, allowing the driver to park in very small spaces. While its a gorgeous and very forward-thinking design, we cant help but wonder what would happen to all of the Red Bull cans and random trash we have on the floor of our cars now when the car hits vertical mode. The people of the future will have to be much tidier than todays drivers. If the Metromorph design seems familiar, its very similar to the horizontal/vertical MAG-LEV transportation system in the movie Minority Report. The movies car, however, was a Lexus clearly different than the Peugeot Metromorph.

Keep Going - Check out this Great Related Gajitz Article: [Driving Design: Safe, Eco-Friendly, Soft Body Urban Cars](#) Cars are seen by many as a mounting problem: they create congestion in the streets, danger for pedestrians and other drivers, and a growing environmental impact. One of the holy grails of industrial design is coming up with a car that will solve all of these problems while still letting us get around with ease. Terreform's answer is to approach the car problem not from an angle of urban design... [Click Here to Read More](#)

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