

**Accessorize now!**  
MAXIMIZE THE EXPERIENCE

# HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

*Here's a helpful list of accessories for this year's hottest holiday gift items!*

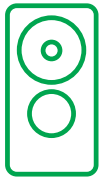


Technology tops many holiday wish lists this year. Digital televisions, home theater components, digital cameras, camcorders, personal stereos, wireless phones and video game systems make excellent gifts. But without accessories, these devices will have to wait until stores reopen to begin entertaining their hopeful recipients.

Electronics accessories also provide an inexpensive way to augment a larger gift or refresh a piece of existing gear. Give the complete gift with accessories!



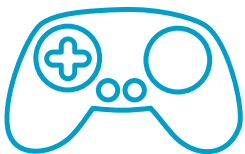
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**Digital music players** – sometimes called MP3 players – allow music lovers to carry hundreds, even thousands of songs with them on a pocket-sized device. To further improve their listening experience, consider adding these accessories:

- Better sounding or more comfortable pair of headphones to replace the small “ear buds” that often come with the players.
- For added style and protection, consider buying a carrying case that matches the recipient’s lifestyle. From decorative colorful knit “socks” and ruggedized aluminum cases to leather belt pouches and athletic arm bands, a unique carrying case can personalize any audio device.
- Specially made portable “boom box” stereo systems allow tiny MP3 players to fill a room with sound.
- Automotive adaptors or “car kits” recharge the player’s battery while transmitting music through the car’s radio.

**Tips and Tricks:** If your music lover shares a car, a self-installed car kit can be unplugged and transferred easily but a professionally installed system often provides a cleaner look. For best results, make sure to have the work done by a Mobile Electronics Certified Professional (MECP) installer.

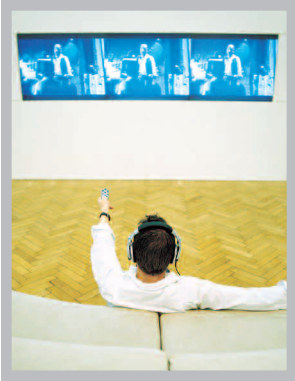


**Video game systems** will most likely take the form of a dedicated home theater component or a personal, handheld device. In addition to games, you may also consider the following add-ons:

- An input selector or an adaptor called an RF modulator will make sure that your game console works, even if you have an older TV. If you can’t find the manual, take a digital picture of the back of the set to show your local retailer.
- Check the back of the package for a list of supported controllers. Some games include or recommend specialized controllers like an electronic fishing rod, steering wheel, bat or floor mat. Wireless, ventilated and “force feedback” controllers that shake and vibrate in your hands are available for all console models.
- For portable gaming systems, be sure to check out carrying cases and extra power cords/adapters.

**Tips and Tricks:** Buying accessories for these gaming systems can seem simple because there are only a few makes and models available. However, a slight difference in the model number can belie a dramatic generational difference between models. A game for Sony’s PlayStation PS2 will not play on the PS1 console or on the PSP handheld gaming device. Fortunately, the manufacturers tend to change the console’s appearance with each new model so you will probably recognize your model.

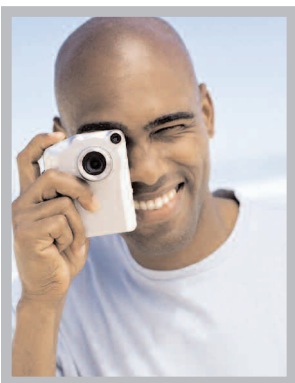
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**Home theater systems** offer the widest variety of accessory gifts, so stock up!

- Wall brackets for mounting thin/flat panel televisions and surround sound speakers provide a clean, professional look.
- A programmable universal remote control makes a good stocking stuffer and can replace the growing collection of remotes cluttering the coffee table.
- A surge protector or power conditioner protects delicate audio/video equipment.
- A pair of wireless headphones keeps late-night video gaming or action movie viewing from disturbing the household's early risers.
- If your home theater owner also listens to music on his computer or MP3 player, a "digital media receiver" or extender provides an inexpensive way for them to play their collection on the home's stereo. You will need to know what type of computer network they have, i.e. wireless or wired Ethernet.

**Tips and Tricks:** With pre-packaged surround sound systems starting at around \$500, a new audio system could be considered an accessory to a new high-definition digital television. If the home theater surround sound system is already hooked to a pair of speakers, a center channel speaker, sub-woofer or pair of rear speakers adds impact to a movie's audio. Some rear speakers are wireless, but don't forget to buy a roll of good quality speaker wire for any other new speakers.



**Digital cameras and camcorders** are the perfect gift for just about anyone, but especially for families with young children. To help the digital photographer on your list get the most out of his/her camera, consider these great accessories:

- Photo printer or memory card to share and store photos.
- Power — don't forget batteries and chargers.
- A tripod helps to ensure that family photos are lined up perfectly!
- Carrying cases keep digital cameras and their various parts safe and accessible.

**Tips and Tricks:** Some photo printers require a computer, but others can print images directly from the memory card or camera itself. Be sure you know which operating system (Mac OSX, Windows 2000, etc.) the recipient uses before buying a computer-driven model and the model of camera they have if you are buying a camera specific printer. Printers that print directly from memory cards usually support multiple formats, but it wouldn't hurt to know which one your loved one's camera uses. Connecting a photo printer, digital camera or camcorder to a computer requires the use of a specialized cable, usually USB or 1394 (also called FireWire or iLink). Check the packaging to make sure the necessary cable is included and buy one if it is not, so the gift recipient can use it right away.

# Accessorize now!

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***Refer friends and family to these great websites for more information about technology and electronics accessories!***

## **AntennaWeb**

[www.AntennaWeb.org](http://www.AntennaWeb.org)

This online mapping tool helps consumers determine which type of outdoor antenna to purchase. Whether the antenna you want is for use with a home satellite system, high-definition television (HDTV) or a traditional analog set, this site will show you what you need to know to buy the right antenna. Just key in your address in the secure site and AntennaWeb will guide you step-by-step to find the right antenna for your specific location.

## **The CEA Connections Guide**

[www.ceaconnectionsguide.com](http://www.ceaconnectionsguide.com)

This interactive resource helps consumers get products out of the box and into operation in a snap! The site provides easy-to-understand descriptions of audio and video connectors and shows users where they're located and how to use them to optimize product performance.

## **DigitalTips**

[www.DigitalTips.org](http://www.DigitalTips.org)

DigitalTips is the place for consumers to learn about the latest technologies before they buy. The site offers interactive buying guides to help consumers learn about products and the best accessories to maximize satisfaction with their purchase. Consumer can also learn more about recycling their old electronics and the 2009 transition to digital television.



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