

## Gadgets

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March 15, 2004

### **CONSIDERATE TECHNOLOGY, ABC KEYBOARD; \$29.95**

Basic ABCs

This keyboard is perfectly ordinary except for one thing: The keys are laid out alphabetically. The company says the layout makes the keys easier to find and reduces frustration for those who haven't learned to type using the QWERTY keyboard. The ABC Keyboard needs no new software or reprogramming. It connects to PCs through a PS/2 keyboard port; Mac users running Mac OS X 10 or later can hook it up through a USB adapter. For students struggling to type assignments and adults learning to use computers for the first time, the ABC keyboard could be A-OK. More information: <http://www.abckeyboard.com>

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### **IOMEGA EXTERNAL CD-RW/DVD-ROM PLUS 7-IN-1 CARD READER; \$129.95**

#### **Double duty**

This device from San Diego-based Iomega pulls double duty: It's both an external CD recorder and a memory-card reader that can efficiently burn copies of digital photos straight from a camera's memory card to a CD. The drive, which works with USB 2.0 or USB 1.1 connections, can read and write to CompactFlash I and II, Microdrive, SmartMedia, Multimedia Card, Secure Digital, Memory Stick and Memory Stick Pro memory cards and can copy data between different cards. The disc side of the drive records in the CD-RW format and plays DVD-ROM discs. The card reader works with many Windows and Macintosh computers. Iomega includes CD-burning software with the drive, supplying its own HotBurn Pro for Windows and CharisMac Discribe for Mac systems. The MusicMatch Jukebox MP3 software for Windows and Mac is also included, and PC users get Iomega Automatic Backup, Adobe Photoshop Album and Sonic CinePlayer as well. More information: <http://www.iomega.com>

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### **STEALTHSURFER, PORTABLE USB DRIVE FOR WEB SITES; \$70-\$299**

Semi-secret travels

A new, thumb-size USB drive from a company called StealthSurfer aims to guard your privacy by keeping the records of your Web activity close to the vest. When you plug in the StealthSurfer and use its customized version of the Netscape Web browser, the device stores the cookies, URL history, cache files and other traces of your browsing that would ordinarily accumulate on your computer's hard drive. When you're done surfing, you unplug the drive and take the records of your travels with you. StealthSurfer's name is a bit of an overstatement. It does keep your Web-hopping and file-sharing activities away from prying eyes after the fact, but since it uses your computer's Internet connection, the Web sites you visit can still track your Internet protocol address as you move around online. StealthSurfer comes in four capacities, ranging from 64 megabytes (\$70) to 512 megabytes (\$299). It is compatible with Windows 98SE/Me/ 2000 and XP. More information: <http://www.stealthsurfer.biz>

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