



What to buy

2016 HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

TECH GADGETS

31
SHOPPING
DAYS LEFT

With so many new and improved gadgets, products, and devices filling store shelves, gifts for techno-junkies often make for the most difficult holiday purchases. Here's a list of 10 tech gift ideas in a wide assort-

ment of prices and devices to make holiday shopping for gadget hounds a bit easier.

—KIRK BAIRD, BLADE STAFF WRITER

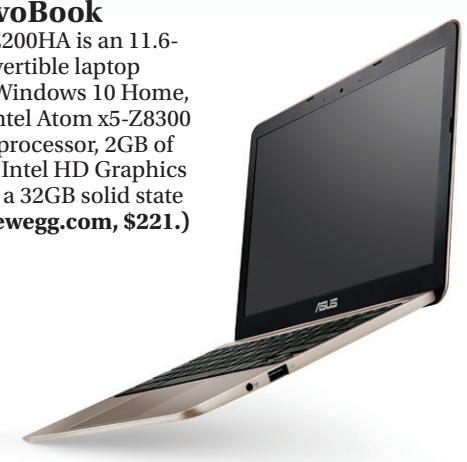


The Acer Aspire
R 11 R3-131T-P0KR is an 11.6-inch touch-screen convertible laptop running Windows 10 Home, with an Intel Pentium N3710 1.6GHz processor, 4GB of memory, integrated graphics chip, and a 64 solid state drive. (Amazon, \$320.)



Google Cardboard
Escaping the realities of the real world for the fantasy of a virtual one needn't be expensive. Google's Cardboard is a DIY VR headpiece that can accommodate many phones, including iPhones. There are many models made by myriad manufacturers. Once again, apps are required. (Best Buy, Target, priced beginning at \$9.99.)

The Asus VivoBook
E200HA is an 11.6-inch convertible laptop running Windows 10 Home, with an Intel Atom x5-Z8300 1.44GHz processor, 2GB of memory, Intel HD Graphics chip, and a 32GB solid state drive. (Newegg.com, \$221.)



LG High-Dynamic Range TV
55UH7700 TV.
LG's 55-inch 4K Ultra HD TV with HDR. (Best Buy, \$1,099.99.) Also LG's 55-inch Super UHD 4K HDR Smart LED TV (55UH8500). (Appliance Center, \$1,196.)



Samsung Gear VR
Those with a Samsung phone — Galaxy S6 Edge, Galaxy S7, Galaxy S7 edge — only need to add their headset to this adjustable headpiece and download the appropriate apps to have VR in their own living room — like streaming a movie in Netflix's artificial living room while sitting on the couch of your own living room. (Target, \$99.99.)



Google Home
With a simple "OK, Google..." prompt, the wireless Google Home will also play your favorite songs, answer math questions, tell you if you'll be late to work, and adjust the temperature in your living room (provided you have a Nest thermostat or another proper smart device). (Best Buy, \$129.99.)



PlayStation VR
Sony's PlayStation VR was enormously popular when released last month. The headset requires a PlayStation 4, and can be purchased in a bundle that includes the headset and the necessary PlayStation Camera as well as two PlayStation Move Motion Controllers, or in separate pieces. And since it's PlayStation, there are already a lot of great VR games. (Best Buy, \$499.99 for the bundle; \$399.99 for just the headpiece.)



Echo and Echo Dot
Amazon's wireless voice-controlled personal assistant "Alexa" comes in two versions — a tower (Echo) and a puck (Echo Dot) — that do the same thing: stream tunes via Amazon Music, Spotify, iHeartRadio, et al, provide news, weather, and traffic updates, sync with many smart home devices, and even answer those nagging questions about that one actor you can't remember but just know was in that one movie. The Echo features 360-degree audio, and Echo Dot has a much smaller built-in speaker, though it can connect. (Best Buy, Sears, \$179.99 for Echo; Best Buy, \$49.99 for Echo Dot.)



Samsung High-Dynamic Range TV
UN49KS8000FXZA.
Samsung's 49-inch Smart, 4K Ultra HD TV with HDR. (ABC Warehouse, \$1,098.)



Oculus Rift
The virtual reality device that got the tech industry buzzing with its first major product demonstration in 2013 is here. The Oculus Rift virtual reality headset bundle comes with a remote, sensor, Xbox One wireless controller, and Lucky's Tale game. It also requires a reasonably new PC to power the illusion. (Best Buy, \$599.99.)

* Prices and availability subject to change.

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