

BY MANDY J WATSON



XBOX 360
 You might want to wait until after 14 February to get Microsoft's new Xbox 360 gaming console – or you may find yourself competing for your man's attention on Valentine's Day with high-speed racing cars and scantily clad high-resolution fantasy warriors. Of course, if you're single, there's always the *Superman Returns* game to keep you occupied....
Sexy rating 5/5 **What we like** The Xbox 360 is available in two packages – for the interested gamer (the Xbox 360 Core System: console plus controller) and the serious gamer (the Xbox 360: console, wireless controller, headset, hard drive and more).
Price Xbox 360 Core System: R2 699; Xbox 360: R3 699; games: R199 to R499. **Contact** Microsoft South Africa on ☎ 0800 991 550 or visit www.xbox.com/en-ZA/hardware/buy1.



GADGET GIRL

This month's hottest gadgets, games and gizmos



APACER HANDY STENO AH320

These thumb-sized USB flash drives are available locally in five different storage capacities, to suit different budgets, and you can use them in computers running Windows, Mac OS and Linux – just drag and drop your files. The drives are small and weigh just 9g each. You can snap the protective cap onto the back of the device so you don't lose it.

Cool factor 3/5 **What we like** The free Apacer Compression Explorer (ACE) software (for Windows 2000 and Windows XP only) enables you to crunch the sizes of your files while they're on the drive, so you can store even more stuff. It also lets you password-protect your info. **Price** 256MB: R99,90; 512MB: R125; 1GB: R185; 2GB: R350; 4GB: R691. **Contact** Visit www.pinnacle.co.za/dealers/list.asp or www.apacer.com/en/products/Handy_Steno_AH320.htm.



HIP2B² PHAT SKINNIES

These tiny stereo speakers (only 2,5cm thick!) will work with any music player that has a headphone jack. They're perfect for your desk because they don't take up much space and all you need to power them are four AAA batteries.

Cool factor 3/5 **What we like** The speakers aren't expensive, so they make great gifts for music-loving friends. **Price** R120 per pair. **Contact** Hip2B² on ☎ (021) 462-3129 or visit www.hip2b2.com.

HP PHOTOSMART R967 DIGITAL CAMERA (L2428A)

HP's 10-megapixel digital camera is compact – but underneath the sleek exterior is serious technology that enables you to take high-quality photographs. The camera features a Secure Digital/MultiMediaCard (SD/MMC) slot and you can also use it to record video clips.

Sexy factor 4/5 **What we like** The back of the camera features a 7,6cm screen so you can actually see what you're photographing. And forget about fiddling with software – the HP Design Gallery allows you to add artistic effects directly on-camera. **Price** R3 611. **Contact** HP South Africa on ☎ 0800 118 883 or visit www.hpshop.co.za.



GUITAR HERO

This incredibly addictive music game for the PlayStation 2 will have you acting like a guitar rock god within minutes. You can play the game with a normal PlayStation 2 controller – but the special guitar controller that comes with the package is much more fun. Pick a difficulty mode and play the appropriate notes to covers of famous songs by hitting the correct buttons. If you think you're up to it, challenge a friend to a duelling-guitar multiplayer game.

Entertainment value 5/5 **What we like** Even if you're not particularly coordinated, you can still excel at this game. **Price** R649. **Contact** Megarom on ☎ (011) 234-2680 or visit www.megarom.co.za. □



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