

September 8, 2007

Picks
Tech: Retro

In the market for gadgets, affection for the old drives new product designs

By REED ALBERGOTTI
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Computer buffs have long been nostalgic about their first gadgets. The annual "Vintage Computer Festival" attracts hundreds of old-tech aficionados to the Computer History Museum in Mountain View, Calif., and eBay's "vintage electronics" subcategory lists more than 13,000 items. Increasingly, companies are cashing in on the trend with replicas and reissues of 1980s devices. Below, three new items that recall electronics of old.

Hewlett-Packard 35s Scientific Calculator

To commemorate the 35th anniversary of its first hand-held scientific calculator, H-P has released a reissue that echoes the original but is updated with advanced features, including 100 built-in functions and 800 storage registers. \$59.99 at hp.com¹.



Chinavasion Cassette MP3 player

This MP3 player is hidden inside a replica of a cassette tape. It can hold up to 2GB of data and can also be placed in a normal tape deck to play MP3 files in a car or on a stereo. \$21.53 at www.chinavasion.com².

Mini Boombox

Next month, British design company Suck UK will release this folding cardboard iPod docking station and speaker system designed to look like a 1980s boombox. \$40 at www.suck.uk.com³.



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