

WHO NEEDS ONE OF THOSE? Gift Shopping For Those Who Have Everything

It's officially "The Holidays". The air is crisp, the leaves are falling, and the shopping frenzy is beginning to build. I'm not much of a shopper, having shrugged off holiday shopping several years ago. I think my family and friends are secretly grateful that the gifts are out of the picture. I mean, how many years can you shop for the same person and actually get them something they want or need? I'm free from the stress of gift-buying and as a result, I actually look forward to and love the holiday season!

In yesterday's mail arrived a Sharper Image catalog. Now, although I'm not much for shopping, I will glance through catalogs as a formality before I toss them in the trash, just to look at some pretty things or to get a laugh. Being a professional organizer gives me special powers over catalogs that mere mortals don't possess. I am the Woman Of Steel! I cannot be tempted! I laugh in the face of bargains and buy-two-get-one-free! This month's Sharper Image is great for holiday entertainment, as it is filled cover to cover with hundreds of things that nobody really needs but they'll buy anyway. Let's browse, shall we?

For a mere \$14.95, page 5 offers me something called the California Girl Q. It appears to be a mechanism in the shape of a triangle with a ball in the middle. It is the 21st century equivalent to the old Magic 8 Ball, which you would ask a question and then shake it for the answer. The California Girl Q is electronic, however, and answers your questions with responses such as, "Fer Shure!" or "Whatever!". Yes, it's just the thing you need this holiday season... an electronic smart-aleck. How totally tubular.

Page 22 shows a Swiss Multi-Tool Pen. Wow, that's a lot of adjectives for such a small device. Apparently this pen-tool-thingy has some superhuman gel ink which writes on any surface, from any angle, in any temperature, underwater, on any planet in the solar system. It also features a red mini-light, a knife, scissors, a file and a mini-screwdriver. All this functionality for just \$49.95, such a bargain! I suppose it would come in handy if I were ever stranded in the dark, at twenty degrees below zero and had to weasel myself loose from a very small sunken ship on Jupiter. Hey, it could happen.

On page 67, you can find the Joke Master. For the low, low price of \$29.95 you can have this electronic pocket wit-enhancer guaranteed to make you the hit of any party. Just imagine how impressed your co-workers will be at the company Christmas party, when you whip out your little comedic gizmo and regale the crowd with jokes and canned laugh tracks. Oh, and you might want to get that resume together, while you're at it.

Finally, on page 35, something even an organizing consultant like myself should be able to appreciate... The Wireless Radio Frequency Locator! It's a device, which comes with four little fobs that you attach to your keys, your PDA, your eyeglasses, or anything else you frequently lose. It works much like the "pager" function on the base unit of a cordless phone, for those times when you can't find the receiver.

With the WRFL, when you can't find something, you just hit the button corresponding to the lost item and the fob that is attached to that item beeps like a wailing Banshee until you find it and turn it off, allowing you to locate your missing item. I have to suggest that if you continually lose the same items over and over again, why not just establish one place where they live and be done with it? (Darn it, there's that pesky organizer in me coming out again!)

This product seems like a great idea on paper. However, I can't help but think that someone who needs an electronic fob and pager to find the important things in their life will at some point, lose track of the paging device itself. So...does anyone know a good organizer?

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