

Gift Ideas



With Christmas and Hanukkah approaching, a few gift suggestions are usually welcome. So here are some items I've come across that I hope are helpful.

OlumiRing \$25



- Compact ring light illuminates your face during video chats
- Adjust brightness from 100 to 800 lumens
- Clips on iPhone, iPad, or Mac
- Powered by USB cable or by rechargeable Li-ion battery (~ one hour of run time)

OlumiRing is a clip that attaches to the top of your phone. The front of the clip is a ring of LED lights behind a translucent cover. The ring encircles your phone's lens and illuminates your face. It has a rechargeable battery that's good for about an hour. You can also connect it to a USB charger and it will run indefinitely. The clip part opens wide enough to fit over the top of a Mac, and it will also fit over most phone cases.

OlumiRing \$25



GoDonut \$25



- Device stand, non-slip rubbery coating, weighted base
- Holds device at 90°, 70°, and 45° tilt
- Does not permanently attach to surface

The GoDonut is a simple, well-designed stand to hold an iPhone or iPad. It's heavy, so it won't easily move around. It has a rubbery silicon cover so it won't leave scratches. The slots are angled to hold your device at three different angles. The GoDonut costs \$25, but the price per unit goes down if you buy more than one.

Bird Buddy \$200

- Rechargeable Li-ion battery
- Connects to home WiFi
- Activates only when it detects motion immediately in front of the camera
- Sends alert to phone app
- Takes pictures of birds
- Identifies birds by species
- Records a log



If you have a bird feeder in your yard and enjoy identifying the different kinds that visit, then you may want to indulge in a Bird Buddy. The lithium-ion battery is rechargeable and holds a charge for a month or more. The camera activates only when it detects motion on the feeder. It snaps a picture and sends it to the app on your phone using your home WiFi. The app keeps a log of your visitors and even identifies their species.

Bird Buddy \$200



video (no audio): [birdbuddy](https://www.birdbuddy.com)

CREATIVE XP Night Vision Goggles \$109



- 10.9 x 6.89 x 3.46 inch dimensions
- 4" TFT screen
- optical 7X zoom, digital 2X zoom
- 32 GB memory card
- AA batteries or rechargeable power bank

If you'd like to see what kinds of critters visit your yard at night, then these night vision binoculars are reasonably priced. They have a 4" screen and a rechargeable battery. You can hit 'record' and save a video on a 32GB memory card.

Cosmic Scope \$50

- 12x Zoom
- Smartphone adapter
- Infrared vision
- Tripod mount



Cosmic Scope is a handy telescope you can use by itself, or you can use the attachment clip to mount your iPhone. The clip aligns your phone's camera with the eyepiece. Cosmic Scope can be used in low light conditions, and it has a tripod mount.

CupStation \$25



This actually really saved my ***.

The CupStation is an item for your vehicle. It works as an extra cupholder or as a phone mount. This short video shows how it works. You'll notice it shows for a second that it can also hold a phone or iPad.

video: [CupStation](#)

CupStation \$25



- Holds two cups in one spot
- Adhesive foam spacers expand to fit tightly into existing cup holder
- Second cup holder rotates 360°, expands up to 6" diameter
- Able to hold large drinks

The CupStation can hold two containers, including oversize tumblers up to 6" in diameter. The grips hold your cup tightly, and the arm pivots to give yourself more elbow room.

PhotoStick Omni \$80

- Finds and sorts thousands of photos and videos
- 128 GB storage
- Removes duplicates
- USB 2.0 plug



- Adapter for Lightning, USB-C, and Micro-USB
- Requires iOS or iPad OS 13.0 or later, Mac OS 10.13 or later

Next is the PhotoStick Omni, usually \$80, though I've seen marked down prices. There are several similar devices available; this one gets excellent reviews. It automatically goes through your pictures and videos, removes duplicates, and saves them as a backup drive. It has 128 GB of storage, and it comes with the adapters for whatever connection is needed.

YTT Touchscreen Mist Cleaner \$14



- About 4" x 1" x 1"; weighs 1.44oz
- Spray surface with cleaning solution, wipe with surrounding microfiber cloth
- Use on iPhones, iPads, Macs
- Refillable reservoir (isopropyl alcohol)
- Washable cloth

This screen cleaner makes a great Stocking Stuffer. It's about the size of a lipstick tube. Inside is a reservoir with a pump sprayer.

[YTT Touchscreen Mist Cleaner](#)

YTT Touchscreen Mist Cleaner \$14

Notebook



Cellphone



Tablet



Application Scenarios

The outside of the Mist Cleaner is a microfiber cloth sleeve for wiping a screen. The sleeve is removable for washing. The Mist Cleaner goes for \$14.

Anker Portable Charger 313 Power Bank \$22

- 10,000 mAh
- Can charge an iPhone twice
- Overcharge and overheating protection
- Trickle charge or fast charge



Anker is a well-known brand of external batteries for mobile devices. This particular model has a compact size. It weighs 8 oz, and it can do a trickle charge or a fast charge. It can charge a phone, an iPad, Bluetooth speakers, ear phones, and other accessories. The downside to this product is that it does not come with charging cables. This external battery is currently discounted to \$22.

Poliglu Language Translator \$89



- 36 languages
- smaller than an iPhone
- high quality audio
- 1.5 seconds response time

This item could put foreign language teachers out of a job. It's not the same as having a conversation, but it will help you get directions, making purchases, asking questions, and so on. Works with an app on your phone via WiFi, mobile network, or Bluetooth.

A criticism is that most people set their phones to sleep after a few minutes. When that happens, Poliglu quits working and a translation in progress is interrupted.

Poliglu Language Translator \$89



Instant Translator EN



Share



Pause (k)

Apple HomePod Mini \$99



- Like an external speaker for your iPhone, iPad, or Mac
- Connects via home WiFi
- Responds to Siri commands

We can't go shopping without including at least one Apple product. I recommend the HomePod Mini. The sound quality is amazing, especially when you consider how small the speakers are. One HomePod Mini sounds great by itself, but if you get two it will play your music in stereo. The price is the same as what I paid two years ago.



**Merry
Christmas!**

**Hanukkah
Sameach!**



There you have some of the best gift ideas for the tech-minded person in your life. Enjoy the holidays, and have fun shopping!