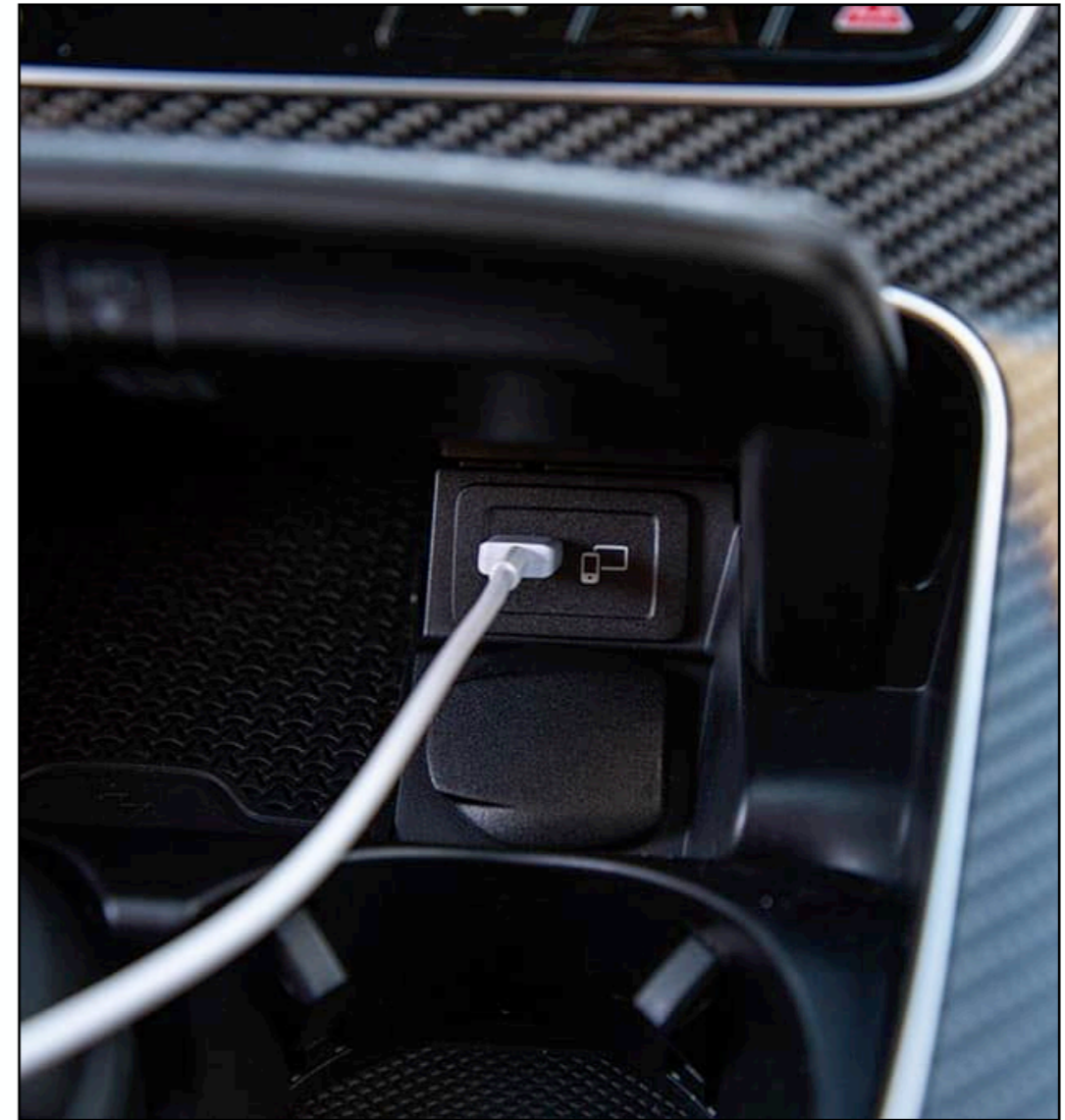


Gift Ideas



It's hard to believe we're in November already. I've given gift suggestions before, so here are a few more which your loved ones might enjoy.

Cable connection to CarPlay is OK, but ...



I'm a big fan of CarPlay. CarPlay provides navigation and traffic reports. It works with Siri to read text messages and emails out loud. You can dictate message. It can play the music you request and perform many other functions. Best of all, CarPlay provides hands-free use of your phone while you're driving. But many times I have started driving and realized too late I forgot to connect my phone. Of course, no one would ever plug in their phone while driving.

Wireless CarPlay Adapter is much better!

- DARAWL brand
- Bluetooth
- Automatic
- Hands-free
- \$70



Now there are wireless adapters for CarPlay. The brand name of the one I bought is DARAWL. It has a short cable that connects to my car's USB port, and then it connects wirelessly to my phone. It was as easy to set up as any Bluetooth device. Now every time I get in the car it takes just a few seconds to automatically reconnect to my phone. The device is small, and it has a green LED that indicates when the device is active. It also comes with a piece of double-stick tape if you want to attach it near your USB port.

I bought one for our car from Amazon for \$70. I've been using it since early October, and it has worked flawlessly. A few weeks later I bought another one for my truck, and my iPhone has no trouble telling which device to connect to.

Thumbs Up Lazy Phone Stand



- \$4 on ebay; also in multi-packs
- Several colors

Here's a good stocking-stuffer. This little phone stand is both practical and whimsical. The Thumbs Up can hold your phone upright, or the arms can spread out to hold your phone on its side. The little hands also rotate. I saw one on eBay for \$4 and a pack of four for \$12.49.

ebay—[Thumbs Up Lazy Phone Stand Cell Phone Holder](#)

Amazon—[Thumbs Up Lazy Phone Stand Cell Phone Holder](#)

Apple HomePod Mini—still \$99



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

I included the HomePod Mini in a previous presentation. It connects to your Mac or iPhone over your home WiFi, and the sound is amazing. I hope to get a second Mini someday because with two the source device sends separate signals for a stereo effect. You can also place HomePods in several rooms for full-house sound. Also, HomePods can be used as an intercom.

The HomePod Mini is still \$99, the same as when Apple first introduced it in 2020. The full size HomePod, which has even better fidelity, costs \$300.

Benks ArmorPro iPhone Case



- made of Kevlar
- highest rating
- MagSafe compatible
- \$40

The Benks ArmorPro is probably the best phone case on the market. It's made of Kevlar (i.e., bullet-proof vest material), it's thin enough to allow MagSafe recharging, and you can get \$10 off your first purchase. The regular price is \$40 plus shipping if you buy directly from Benks; it's \$50 from Amazon Prime (free shipping).

Amazon—[Benks ArmorPro iPhone Case](#)

Benks—[Benks Armor iPhone Case](#)

Twelve South HiRise 3-in-1 MagSafe Charger

- Charges iPhone, Apple Watch, and AirPods simultaneously
- Space saver
- iPhone charger can be tilted
- \$133 from Amazon



What do you get for the man who has everything? A stand that can charge his stuff all at once—his iPhone, Apple Watch, and AirPods. This gadget is a space saver for your bedside table. It has a single five-foot cable that replaces three. The charger is \$133 from Amazon. (Note there are other less expensive products available, so shop around, though Twelve South is a reputable brand.)

Belkin AirPods Cleaning Kit



- Everything you need to give your AirPods a thorough cleaning
- \$10.49 from Amazon

Those expensive, high quality AirPods need to be maintained now and then. For less than \$11 you can get a Belkin Cleaning Kit to keep your AirPods at their best acoustic performance. The kit includes a cleaning brush, wax softener, cleaning gel, and a microfiber cloth.

KeySmart

KEY | SMART

Saving The World From Bulky Pockets

KeySmart is a company that specializes in gadgets that are useful and compact. Their motto is, "Saving The World From Bulky Pockets." Here are two of their products that could make good presents.

KeySmart Max



- Bluetooth
- Find your keys
- Find your phone
- LED light
- Holds 14 keys/ accessories
- Recharge with USB
- 2-year warranty
- \$45 from Amazon

KeySmart's premier products are a line of key organizers. They range from \$20 to \$60. The \$60 key organizer is called the KeySmart Max. It connects via Bluetooth to your phone. If you misplace your keys you can use your phone to activate an audible alert. Conversely, you can use the device to find your phone. It has an LED light for finding a lock in the dark. It has a ring for your car's key fob. It can hold up to 14 keys and accessories. You can add items such as a screwdriver/bottle opener, pliers, blade, and so on. It's like an electronic Swiss Army knife that also holds your keys. It costs \$60 from the manufacturer and \$45 from Amazon. If you shop for the KeySmart Max you should also check out the KeySmart iPro—not as many features but still a good product

Amazon—[KeySmart Max](#)

[KeySmart Max](#)

KeySmart SmartCard



- Credit card size
- 200' range
- Audible alert in the card
- Audible alert in your phone
- \$40

The KeySmart SmartCard is the size of a credit card. Pair it with your phone and slip it into a slot in your billfold. Your phone can track it up to 200 feet away. You can activate an audible alert in the card, and the card can alert your iPhone if you go off and leave your wallet someplace. The SmartCard does not include a charging station, but it will recharge on an Apple MagSafe. A single charge lasts as long as five months. The card costs \$40. (The picture shows the front and back, not a two-pack.)

Ray-Ban Smart Sunglasses



- Several colors and styles
- Make phone calls
- Play music
- Record audio/video
- Live stream
- Meta AI
- \$300

This gift should appeal to the Wannabe 007 in your family. These stylish sunglasses come in a variety of colors. Plus, it's electronic. It has speakers and a microphone for making phone calls. The speakers can play music. In the outer corner of each lens is a tiny 12-megapixel camera for recording up to 60 seconds of audio+video. You can even live-stream with them. And you can talk to Meta AI. A charge lasts 36 hours. The glasses start at \$300.

Tenikle



- Phone holder
- Tripod
- Wrap-around
- Suction cups
- \$25

The Tenikle is one of the stranger-looking gadgets, but it's also quite clever. It's a device for holding your iPhone while taking pictures, and it works just about anyplace. The rotating clamp holds your phone securely. The legs can make a tripod, or they can be wrapped around a pole, a fence rail, bicycle handlebars, or whatever. The suction cups can attach to glass. And you can roll up the legs into a ball. A Tenikle costs \$25.

PhoneSoap 3



- Sanitizes using UV light
- Cleans iPhones and earbuds
- Also a charger
- \$80 from Amazon

The PhoneSoap 3 is probably the most practical gift idea on this list. Your iPhone is a haven for germs. But after ten minutes of exposure to the ultraviolet light inside a PhoneSoap your phone is sanitized and disinfected. It also works with earbuds. And the PhoneSoap doubles as a wireless charger. It comes in five colors, and it costs \$80 on Amazon.



**Merry
Christmas!**

**Hanukkah
Sameach!**



So there are some gift ideas that range from the ridiculous to the sublime. Have fun shopping!