

## Bose Acoustic Noise Cancelling Headset

This gear has managed to turn my many long-distance airplane trips into peaceful journeys. It turns out a lot of the fatigue of long flights is the constant drum of the airplane's engines. With this magical headset on, that noise completely vanishes. Gone! In its place you can listen to music (whatever source) or just pure faint silence. For sleeping on planes, there is no better technology, including chemicals. Because of the smart design of the generous ear cups there is no ear cringe from wearing these for hours on end. In fact, they are far more comfortable than the flimsy lightweight Walkman-style earsets. Even though these weigh more, they feel better. I put them on when I board a plane and I sleep with them on, too. Tuned low to some innocuous music channel, they coo sweetly. (It's a shock to take the phones off because you can then hear how incredibly loud the plane's rumble really is.) This works so well for flights that Bose makes a special aviation set just for pilots, and a military issue helmet for soldiers working in high-decibel environments like a helicopter. All this comfort comes to you via some very clever chips that cancel out noise signals. This pricey set make perfectly wonderful earphones for land as well, particularly if you need to listen anywhere there is a lot of background distractions. I haven't yet tried it in a shop environment, or while mowing the grass, but I will.

This is really one of those things you have to hear to believe. Bose has a thirty-day free trial period. Take them up on their offer next time you have a fourteen-hour flight and see if it works for you.

—KK

## Bose Acoustic Noise Cancelling Headset

\$300  
Bose  
800-999-2673  
www.bose.com



## BlackBerry

A cell phone is too disruptive, and a pager is too one-way. That's why I avoid them. But a two-way pager that could do proper e-mail, now there's a tool! That's what you get with the BlackBerry, and that is why this little belt device is sweeping the world of road warriors. Unlike a cell phone, it is always on. Yet it doesn't demand immediate attention. And you can send or receive in silence, or even while you are supposed to be doing something else (listening to a boring meeting). Typing is all thumbs, but it is remarkable how fast you can go. Covers the metropolitan areas of the US and Canada. It is the next big little thing.

—KK

## BlackBerry

RIM 950 Wireless Handheld  
Basic unit starts at \$349  
Basic wireless e-mail service starts at \$39 per month  
RIM  
877/255-2377  
www.blackberry.net

## Good Cheap Almost New Cars

You can get a Geo Prizm, one year old and 20K miles, for about \$9,000. They can be bought at auction for the lowest price from a car rental firm, after they have served their year of rental service. Geo Prizms are good and reliable. They come off the same assembly line as Toyota Corollas, and are essentially the same car. Prizms give you Toyota reliability and quality but they don't command the high Toyota price.

—Ted Kaehler

## Honda EU Series Generators

These generators are ridiculously quiet. The secret, as I understand it, is that they are low-volt 12v DC generators that take advantage of the new, very efficient inverter technology to produce the needed 120v AC. There are two sizes to choose from in the EU series (Honda's quietest and most efficient): 1,000 or 3,000 watts. Both have the ability to be hooked up to another generator to double the rating. The 1,000-watt model weighs less than 30 lbs., fits in a trunk, and can power a few appliances. On the other hand, I have used the 140-lb., 3,000-watt generator to power a camp of twenty people in the desert, including a full sound system, for ten days round the clock, and it hardly was breathing hard at all. With an optional cord you can use the 12v DC current directly to charge batteries. These generators also automatically shut off if they get low on oil. They have electric start with pull-start backup. Best of all they completely decimate the track record for efficiency of most gas genys. Instead of the usual one gallon per hour they can operate for between seven and twenty-four hours (depending on load) on a single 3.5-gallon tank. In short, they take all the usual horrors and worries out of using generators.

—Alexander Rose

## Honda EU Series Generators

EU 1000, \$700 street price  
EU3000is, \$1,750 street price  
www.honda-generators.com/generators  
or  
www.generatorsale.com



## TalkAbouts

Cheaper than cell phones; indispensable when outdoors. The most inexpensive mobile communications for short distances—up to two miles. If you are putting on a conference, an outdoor event, or traveling with a team, these rugged units are the things to have. They are inexpensive enough to ensure everyone on a team has one.

—KK

## Motorola TalkAbouts

Beginning at about \$50  
Motorola, Inc.  
www.motorola.com

