

# TECH TOYS

WHO SAYS ENGINEERS CAN'T HAVE FUN?

by Joan Lynch, Managing Editor



## SPEEDY DRIVE

This drive is fast. The 32X DR504S/506S operates at 7300 rpm and provides a maximum data-transfer rate of 4800 kbytes/sec and burst rates of 16.6 Mbytes/sec. The CD-ROM drive offers a slot-load disk mechanism for vertical and horizontal loading. It also supports 60-msec random-seek and 70-msec random-access times. The 148x208.5x42.3-mm drive costs \$129. **Pioneer New Media Technologies**, Long Beach, CA. 1-310-952-2111, [www.pioneerusa.com](http://www.pioneerusa.com). Circle No. 475



## JOYFUL NOISE

For \$59.95, you can get 3-D audio for your computer, VCR, stereo, game console, or DVD. UltraQ connects easily between a sound card and speakers, turning mono into stereo and converting stereo into 3-D surround sound. It comes with everything you need for instant installation. The device weighs 1.2 lb and has an SNR of less than 85 dB. **QSound Labs Inc**, Calgary, AB, Canada. 1-403-291-2492, [www.qsound.com](http://www.qsound.com).

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## STREET SMARTS

Mount the StreetPilot on the dash of your car, and never get lost again. Plus, it's portable—it weighs just a pound, so you can take it from one car to another. The



StreetPilot combines GPS technology with detailed electronic maps to tell you where you are and show you where you want to go. The internal base map covers the entire United States, including rivers, lakes, coastlines, and interstate, national, and state highways. Plug in optional cards, enter a street address, and view it on the high-resolution four-level gray-scale display. You can also find hotels, restaurants, and shops. The device costs less than \$600. **Garmin**, Olathe, KS. 1-913-397-8200, [www.garmin.com](http://www.garmin.com). Circle No. 477



## WHAT WERE YOU SAYING?

"Quicktionary"—talk about clever product naming. This 3.2-oz handheld optical scanner comes in Spanish/English and French/English versions that recognize more than 400,000 words and expressions. Scanned words appear on the display next to their most common translation. The device can scan letters ranging from eight to 14 points in size and can recognize almost all common fonts. It needs three AAA batteries for approximately 3000 scans. Both left- and right-handed users will find it easy to use. Quicktionary costs \$229.95. **Seiko Instruments**, Torrance, CA. 1-800-274-7624, ext 306, [www.seiko-usa.com](http://www.seiko-usa.com).

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