

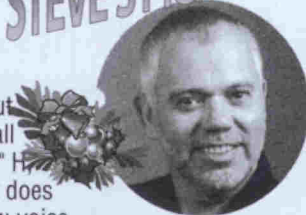
GARMIN QUEST 2

Garmin's new Quest 2 addresses previous ease-of-use complaints, plus it's tiny—easily sliding into my shirt pocket. Weighing just 5.5 oz. (171g), it comes pre-loaded with maps of the U.S., Canada and Puerto Rico. In a departure from previous Garmin touch-screen models like the 2610, data entry is similar to the Magellan system. This makes it easier for beginners and works right out of the box without



hours spent studying the manual. For such a small package—the display measures just 2.2" W x 1.5" H—small Post-It™ notes are only slightly smaller—it does everything larger units do: Programmable routing; voice prompted turn-by-turn directions; automatic recalculation, as well as locations of gas stations, ATMs, hotels and restaurants. It is waterproof and, unlike some Garmin units that won't work on battery power, the Quest 2 has a rechargeable internal lithium-ion battery. An innovative suction mount that can be configured and reconfigured for mounting in any car comes with the unit, plus Garmin also offers a Motorcycle Mount especially for the Quest 2, P/N 010-10610-00. It also comes standard with an AC adapter for indoor use. The Quest 2 lists for \$749.99 but is available online for less. www.garmin.com

STEVE'S PICKS



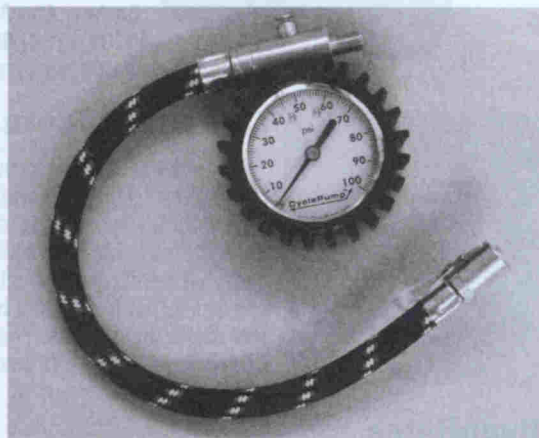
MAGNETIC PICK UP TOOL

If I'm the last do-it-yourself garage mechanic on the planet to discover this tool and you already know about it, read this and bask in your superior knowledge and relive the time you discovered it. I'm talking about a Magnetic Pickup Tool of course. It is simply a small powerful magnet attached to three feet of telescoping stainless steel and a plastic handle. My day of enlightenment came in a friend's garage. Removing plastic parts from my Gold Wing, I dropped a screw somewhere deep in the fairing, below a mass of wires. In answer to my "Uh-oh," a Magnetic Pickup Tool was put in my hand and I quickly retrieved the screw. I had to have one and bought the one you see pictured on my way home. This tool sits on a work bench unused for months. In fact, just as rain seems less likely to fall when you put on a rain suit, since buying my Magnetic Pickup Tool, I mysteriously morphed from being a screw-and-nut-dropping klutz, to having fingers like glue. But patience is a virtue and last week, while changing oil, the tip of my drain plug poked through a pan of warm dirty oil soup and I thought, "Wait, there's a better way." Sure enough, my Magnetic Pickup Tool was up to the task, retrieving the drain plug. I allowed the excess oil to run off and then pulled it off with a rag. Finally! A great stocking stuffer. A variety of models available at most auto parts stores or Sears for less than \$10. Dixon "Y" Machine, Inc.; (707) 678-2375; e-mail: sales@dixonymachine.com



CYCLEPUMP'S EZAIR TIRE GAUGE

For November's Tire Pressure Gauge test, I used a variety of gauges over and over. Many of the digital models were accurate and rugged and great buys. For some mechanics, however, there is something special about the feel of a really good analog tire gauge. EZAir makes one especially for motorcyclists and this gauge has it all: A flexible hose, swivel chuck, peak hold button, push button-to-zero, thumb-operated bleeder and a valve stem on the side to allow the addition of air without removing the gauge. Perhaps not the Best Buy, but I loved it. \$25 from www.bestrestproducts.com or call (425) 673-1023.



MOTOROLA BLUETOOTH HELMET HEADSET

Perhaps my unfamiliarity with wireless cell phone headsets contributed to my sense of awe while holding my first wireless conversation with the voice in my helmet. It was like magic. Motorola has done a nice job with the HS830 Bluetooth Helmet Headset kit. Included is a Bluetooth Wireless Module, a helmet adapter which encloses the module and holds it to the side of your helmet. It has a microphone boom which you position close to your mouth—a speaker and length of wire for routing to the inside of your helmet near your ear. Installation and pairing the unit with my phone was easy and flawless.

You can now answer and initiate calls with your helmet in place on your head. In theory, you could also carry on a conversation while riding. Although probably okay for a passenger, only an idiot would try this while piloting a bike. Talking on a cell phone while driving a car is inadvisable and dangerous; doing it while driving a motorcycle is plumb crazy.

With the ear phone properly located in the helmet, sound quality was excellent. And those on the other end reported that I sounded as if I was speaking on my cell phone without the device. So, until helmets arrive with wireless capabilities built-in, this remains a great choice for the hopeless gadget geek on your list. List price is \$179.90. Expect lower prices online and find out more at www.hellomoto.com or call them at (866) BUY-MOTO.

