



BY LAURA HELLER

beach party

Savor those lazy days of summer with easy-to-pack **portable electronics**

You've got sunscreen, beach towels, and a cooler filled with beverages. Now pack it all in an electronically savvy tote bag that doesn't just carry your iPod—it actually plays it. Or grab one of the many portable boom-box-type speaker systems that let you dock your iPod or other player and dance on the beach.

As electronic components get smaller, quality audio systems are becoming easier to take on road trips, to the beach or weekend cottages, or just out to your own backyard.

The Felicidade Groove Bag Plus is one of the more stylish options. The purse-like tote has a sleek pocket designed to hold an iPod. Plug the player into the bag's integrated speakers and you have quality sound loud enough

to rock any party. There is also a range of boom-box-type systems that let you dock a player and share your tunes. The Harman Kardon Go+Play Boombox for iPods is not for the faint of heart, but provides powerful sound in a sleek and



speed read

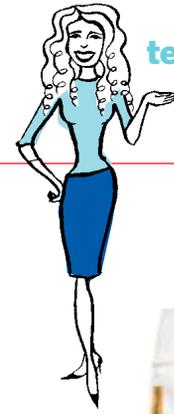
Grab a compact digital Sony Reader and you'll always have a good book at hand. The device displays pages on an easy-to-read 6-inch screen and stores up to 160 books. \$300 (sony.com).

surf the waves

A water-resistant case on the rechargeable SongBook radio and alarm clock from Tivoli Audio lets you take music to the beach. Plug in a mp3 or CD player and share the fun. \$200 (tivoliaudio.com).

your ears only

Hear only what you want to hear with Bose QuietComfort noise-canceling headphones. \$349 (bose.com).



pack the power

A superb sound system is packaged in the sleek and portable Harman Kardon Go + Play Boombox for iPods, \$350 (harmanaudio.com).



you go girl

Slip an iPod in the slim pocket, power up the speakers, and you are good to go, with the fashion-forward Felicidade Groove Bag Plus Triplet, \$100 (target.com).

modern package. Or try a portable radio with player dock. Tivoli's SongBook adds a splash of summer color and is encased in rubber, making it ideal for the beach, pool, or spa soaks.

(Remember when buying devices that there is rarely a one-size-fits-all solution. Some systems work only with Apple- (or non-Apple) based products. Check product specifications or take your player with you when shopping and ask a sales associate to help.)

Taking a road trip? Portable media players let you download movies or TV shows from home to take on the road. If you have a hard-drive recorder at home, transfer content to a portable media device or download content from iTunes to a video iPod for viewing on the small

screen. Simply attach the portable device to the TV at your destination for a more cinematic experience.

Summer is also a time to retreat and recharge your own internal batteries. Create a personal cocoon in the midst of chaos with quality noise-canceling headphones. You don't even need music; just activate the power and the noise canceling function helps neutralize external noise.

Listen to an audio book or indulge in one of the electronic readers that hold hundreds of books at one time. Lightens the load, and stimulates the mind.

There's no need to be overwhelmed by cords and chargers. Newer products come with a universal USB cable. Pick up an inexpensive adapter that lets you

charge devices in the car or through an electrical outlet, paring everything down to one cord and one or two adapters. This solution won't power a laptop, but it will charge portable devices. If you're using older products not powered by USB, consider a universal charger like the iGo, which offers product specific tips that connect to a single power cord. There will be multiple tips to fit different products, but one cord. For total organization, follow the lead of Matt Swanston, a Washington, D.C., tech expert: Convert a toiletry kit to personal technology storage. Separate chargers, cords, media cards, flash drives, and even DVDs in the clear plastic compartments, then pack for tangle free and easy access.

dock and rock

Party anywhere with the portable iSongbook player with a flip-down iPod dock, detachable speaker for stereo sound, AM/FM radio, and a remote, \$400 (tivoliaudio.com).



keep it clean

Ah summer, the sun on your skin and sand between your toes—and all over the floors, between the sheets, and down your drawers. Gadgets make summer even more fun, but how do you protect delicate electronics from water and sand?

If a device gets wet, don't panic, says Washington, D.C., technology expert Matt Swanston. "What you do immediately after an unfortunate incident can make the difference between a temporary inconvenience and permanent damage," he says. "Time is your enemy, so unplug and retrieve the device as soon as is safely possible." Remove the battery and drain water from the device. Lay the parts on a dry towel and allow them to dry. If liquids are sticky, say from lemonade or a margarita, the

device will need a good cleaning—inside and out—to prevent corrosion. Pack a spray can of nonconductive cleaner from an electronics store for this task.

Condensation may occur when electronics are brought inside from a warm and humid environment (just as the face of a wristwatch fogs). Wait 5 or 10 minutes before using the product, so it can adjust.

As for sand, keep electronics in silicone sleeves and sealed in plastic bags as much as possible. Should stray grains slip in, dislodge them with canned compressed air. And take heart: Most electronics are well sealed, protecting inner workings and keeping the sand between your toes, where it belongs.