

## Kitchen pinta's new meaning

Anyone who wants a crisp cool beer on tap at home should look at the Servis Homepub fridge-freezer. It gives you the option of chilled beer on demand with a more authentic feel than you'd get from a can. It gives a whole new meaning to the phrase milk stout, too.

The fridge includes an external tap and special compartments to store two five-litre

barrels. Small kegs are often stocked in larger supermarkets, at off-licences or online. Fitting the barrel the first time is a bit a tricky, but once you've mastered this you'll quickly be able to sit back and toast your handiwork. The beer even pumps under enough pressure to provide a fairly decent head if you like froth.

Snacks to accompany a drink aren't a problem either, as the fridge will hold a similar amount of groceries as other comparable models.

The Homepub performed reasonably in our extensive temperature tests. It worked well on the recommended setting, and both compartments held temperatures steady when the exterior temperature fluctuated. The thermostat is simple to set and the fridge is very easy to organise. It scored 65 per cent in our regular tests.

The freezer let it down, though. It's able to freeze only 2kg of food at a time, otherwise the compressor works too hard and reduces the fridge temperature enough to harden delicate foods. Available from Powerhouse at £600.

**VERDICT** A fun choice for adding pints of beer to your pints of milk.



Beer dispensed in style

### GADGETEER

## Spray taste

Flavorspray has to be the most optimistic of all recent fad diets: 'No longer when you diet will you crave the sweet taste, or yearn for flavour when you count calories.'

We can't quite see how a quick squirt of Cookies 'n' Cream flavouring on a Ryvita is going to satisfy a craving for a tub of Häagen-Dazs, but it's one of



Time magazine's 'most amazing inventions of 2005' (well, it was a slow news year in the US).

Unsurprisingly, Flavorspray is from America. Top marks for flavour inventions: choose between 'Ranch Spray' (which sounds like something the cat did while you were out) or 'Hot and Sour Spray' (don't ask). It does have an amazing price of £4.99 per 60ml of flavour.

In case you're curious: [www.flavorspraydiet.co.uk](http://www.flavorspraydiet.co.uk)



George, his iPod and the heavyweight Hi-Fi

## Me and my buy

**George Marshall-Thornhill ponders a recently purchased Apple iPod Hi-Fi**

Parents are dressing their babies up in iPod-style clothing. You can even buy a 'hoodie' for your iPod. So in an attempt to keep up with the Joneses (or the Jobs) I shelled out £249 for Apple's iPod slot-in Hi-Fi speaker system.

The first thing I discovered was that, at 7.6kg (nearly 17lb), it's not very portable. That weight does give a substantial feel to the Hi-Fi, which is backed up by fairly impressive sound quality. But despite its room-filling ability, I don't think it sounds as good as an iPod routed into a good home stereo, using the iPod Universal Dock (£25) – which doesn't include a remote control, but Apple will sell you one of those for £19.

While the Hi-Fi does some clever things (it reduces power consumption as the batteries run low, for instance) it's not quite as universal as Apple claims: speaker settings (which can adjust the tone, for example) work only with the latest iPod Nano and video models. But at least there's an external port that allows you to amplify other (non-iPod) devices. This works quite well with my digital radio.

I had already discovered that there are cheaper and better ways of filling your room with iPod tunes, and many portable speaker options that are lighter, too. This isn't necessarily the cleverest £249 I've ever spent.

**Let us know the pros and cons of something you've bought recently – contact Anthony Hume at [helpwanted@which.co.uk](mailto:helpwanted@which.co.uk)**

**1 in 4**  
Britons owns at least one  
MP3 player or iPod  
BMRB

**1,700**  
mobiles are dumped  
in the UK every hour  
SCIENCE MUSEUM

**4 billion**  
litres of lager were drunk  
in the UK in 2005  
MINTEL

# A suit that sir can wash, dry and go

Is it the ultimate bachelor suit – one that can be machine-washed and tumble dried at home? M&S claims it is the first of its kind on the high street and hopes for good sales.

It sounded like an excellent idea, particularly for those people who have to wear a suit regularly, to save the cost and hassle of a trip to the dry cleaner. It costs around £130 and is available in different styles.

Tumble drying is convenient but sadly it doesn't mean you can put the suit in to wash overnight and then quickly stick it in the drier before work (unless you're prepared to get up very early).

The suit took two hours to dry in the tumble drier because you have to set the temperature to only 40°C.

We tested the suit to see how it

fared after 12 washes, to simulate usage over a year. After wearing it and washing and drying it once, our researcher was impressed. He found that it was comfortable and a good fit, and said it still looked good and needed relatively little ironing after washing.

After the first wash and dry the suit looked pretty good – it held its shape, was only a little creased and, on measuring it, we found it had shrunk only very fractionally.

However, after washing and drying it for the twelfth time, it was a different story.

The suit showed a significant amount of shrinkage, most noticeably in the sleeves, which lost more than an inch in length.

Although the suit no longer fit-



**Suits you, sir, but it may shrink**

ted properly it isn't likely to carry on shrinking at this rate with further washes.

However, it's worth noting that, in practice, wearing the suit would be likely to stretch it back somewhat to size between washes.

**VERDICT** Sounds an attractive option but if you wash and dry it too frequently, it will shrink.

## Is it worth it? Yes

The Honda Accord 2.2i-CDTi Sport saloon costs £230 more than the Citroën C5 2.0 HDi Exclusive hatchback. But which is better in the long term?

### Honda

Accord 2.2i-CDTi  
Sport + Navigation  
4-door saloon



LIST PRICE	RETAINED VALUE AFTER 3 YEARS & 36,000 MILES	COST PER MILE @ 12,000 MILES PER YEAR	COMBINED FUEL ECONOMY (mpg)
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CALCULATOR	£20,725	£9,326.25	43.9p	51.4
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### Citroën

C5 2.0 HDi Exclusive  
5-door hatch



CALCULATOR	£20,495	£6,968.30	51.2p	47.1
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### VERDICT

That £230 investment is increased tenfold on the resale value, so the Honda costs less to run (by 7.3p per mile). This saving should offset the higher insurance costs, and according to our annual survey, the Honda is far more reliable, too.

## Just out

### Dualit radio £200

With its boxy shape and stainless steel finish the Dualit DAB radio even looks like a toaster. But don't let that fool you -- our initial play suggests it's a great-sounding radio, comparing well with anything we've heard before.

**VERDICT** A potential radio star of the future.



### Lexus From £40,000

Lexus is now taking orders for its GS 450h hybrid luxury saloon, which boasts fuel economy and emissions to rival 2.0-litre petrol cars. It is too new for our hybrids investigation on p16 but we will be testing it soon.



### Nokia

The 7360 is part of Nokia's new L'Amour range. It is free with a contract with O2, Orange and Vodafone. But scratch the elegant surface and it is light on features. The camera is basic and there's no music player. But its radio has 20 pre-sets. More first views of the latest phones at which.co.uk/mobilephones



### John Lewis Various

John Lewis has recently upgraded its own-brand range of domestic appliances. We're now testing and will publish our results soon. Its washing machines are impressive and we hope they can repeat this success elsewhere.

