

Popular Science Magazine

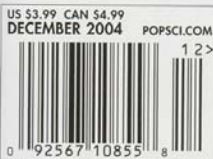
RED PLANET BONUS: THE LATEST, GREATEST PICTURES FROM MARS

POPULAR science

17TH
ANNUAL
BEST OF
WHAT'S NEW



TOP 100 TECH INNOVATIONS 2004



THE YEAR'S STANDOUTS IN:
SPACE > AVIATION > GADGETS
CARS > AUTO TECH > COMPUTERS
PHOTOGRAPHY > HOME ENTERTAINMENT
...AND MORE

reveo™

Popular Science Magazine

best
of
what's
new

{ HOME TECH }

▶ REVEO MARIVAC FOOD TUMBLER

Two days' worth of marinating in 20 minutes

Meat-processing plants have long marinated their goods in a vacuum because depressurization causes the meat to loosen and absorb liquid more thoroughly. The grill masters at Eastman Outdoors brought this process to the kitchen with Marivac. Its vacuum pump depressurizes the five-quart container, and rollers on the base spin your marinade and meat for up to 20 minutes. What you get is an evenly flavored and tender hunk of flesh. / \$200 / freethemeat.org



▶ MAYTAG NEPTUNE DRYING CENTER

Cut your dry-cleaning bills in half

The high heat and constant agitation of tumble dryers causes clothing fibers to bunch up and shift from their original weave, leaving them shrunken and wrinkled. Maytag engineers built a cabinet that uses gentle movement and low heat to realign fibers. Humidity (85 to 95 percent) lubricates the fibers and speeds up the process, so your delicates dry without wrinkles in about 90 minutes. The warm, moist air also freshens worn clothes by stirring up odor molecules and whisking them out through a vent. / \$1,200 (electric), \$1,270 (gas) / maytag.com



SKIL X-SHOP

No basement? No problem. Here's an all-in-one woodshop at an apprentice-friendly price

The Skil X-Shop answers the prayers of the space-challenged home woodworker. This 15-ampere table saw is the first that you can convert into a shaper, stationary sander, drill press or scroll saw simply by attaching the portable power tools (router, drill, sander, jigsaw) you already have. / \$380 / skil.com



▶ ZENON WATER FILTRATION SYSTEM

Good, clean water for your entire home

This four-foot-tall filter's membrane has thousands of long, hollow polymer fibers with pores that trap anything larger than .04 micron in diameter—the vast majority of viruses and bacteria—while letting through essential minerals. The line pressure pulls water through the membrane, so no separate pump is needed, and it self-cleans with a backflush each night. / \$2,000 to \$2,500, depending on the size of the home / maytagwater.com

▶ MAXFORCE TICK MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Killing the messenger, in the case of Lyme disease, turns out to be a fine idea

The ticks that infect humans with Lyme are themselves often infected by field mice carrying the disease. MaxForce kills ticks when they're on mice. Oatmeal-cookie-like bait lures the mouse into a container the size of a cigar box. Inside, a felt wick saturated with Fipronil—a pesticide used by veterinarians—rubs the mouse down, killing resident ticks and inoculating it against the nasty critters for six weeks. In trials, tick populations fell by 80 percent after one year. / \$400 to \$1,000 for a half-acre lot / maxforcecms.com

▶ BOSCH DIRECT CONNECT CS20 CIRCULAR SAW

A no-brainer solution for cut cords

Question: What's the most common cause of circular-saw downtime? Answer: cut power cords. Bosch's simple remedy is the Direct Connect 7.25-inch saw, which takes a standard extension cord in place of a fixed cord. If you cut it, just plug in another. And this saw is just the beginning—Bosch has already started incorporating it into other tool lines. / \$150 / boschtools.com

