

Father's Day



These innovative gadgets and new DIY designs will have Dad smiling from ear to ear

WORDS **GUN ARVIDSEN**

Top 10 gifts

According to the proverb, necessity is credited as being the mother of invention.

While *Handyman* agrees with this, as far as these brilliant products are concerned, we suspect that they were born from a love of technology, a generous dose of imagination and lateral thinking, plus some good old-fashioned audacity.

The world of DIY is always evolving, and while some crazy contraptions end up falling flat and disappearing back into the woodwork, other ideas end up workshop stalwarts that change the way we work.

The cordless drill, random orbital sander and oscillating tool are just three such innovations that made big waves when they appeared on the market, and some of the ingenious goodies in this gift guide are sure to attain a similar status with time.

IDEAS FOR EVERYONE

How many times have you thought DIY would be so much easier or safer if only someone could come up with a new approach to an age-old problem?

We've brought together the top 10 state-of-the-art DIY inventions that feature exactly this design ethos.

From fretworking fathers to Masterchef enthusiasts to dads who already have a shedful of tools but need to lock them up safely, we've covered a range of tastes and budgets so that nobody gets left out.

Whether they boast integrated electronics or digital technology, or simply incorporate a completely new combination of design features to make life easier, these diverse products all have one thing in common.

Each of them has at least one futuristic aspect that sets it apart from anything remotely similar, and makes it right at home in the 21st century.



DREMEL MOTOSAW

Used with its bench-mount platform as a scroll saw or popped out and held in your hand like an electric fretsaw, the MotoSaw, \$129, is a revolutionary product that many have wished for but nobody has manufactured until now.

With variable speed and tool-free blade change, as well as the option to mount the blade with its cutting edge perpendicular to the frame, the MotoSaw will delight anyone who has ever developed blisters from arduous fretsaw use. dremel.com.au



BOSCH CORDLESS TACKER

A few *Handyman* staffers asked why anyone would want a powered staple gun. My answer was, 'Who wouldn't want such an awesome tool?'

Electric and pneumatic staple guns have been around for a while, but this cordless version, \$99, is powered by a 3.6V Li-ion battery.

The tool features a charge level indicator and magazine window so you can see how much ammo is left. Also, the push/release safety system only lets the trigger work when the tacking nose is pressed against a solid surface. bosch-do-it.com.au



LOOFT INDUSTRIES LOOFTLIGHTER

The Looftlighter, \$40, must be seen to be believed. Like a cross between a hair dryer and a flame thrower, it can light a briquette barbie, home fireplace or wood-fired pizza oven in seconds. Yet the actual heat applied is so focused at the business end that you can wave your hand in front of it and feel only a warm breeze.

It's hard to say whether the best thing about this product is that your food will never again taste of firelighters, the built-in bottle opener, or the amazingly low price point. looftlighter.com



HART CLAW HAMMER

Overhauling the hammer is like reinventing the wheel, right? Wrong. The Hart 20oz claw hammer, \$38, has design features that put a new spin on driving and extracting nails.

It features a side-mounted extractor, so you can pluck out nails from confined spaces and the main face has a magnetic nail holder at the top for starting nails one-handed.

The I-beam shaft is engineered to minimise vibration and the neck is shaped to easily bend reinforcing rod. nothinghitsharder.com.au



Top 10 gifts



OZITO RIVE DRILL



You could almost imagine someone from NASA coming up with the RiveDrill, \$89, after a few drinks. 'Hey, imagine if you could secure rivets with a cordless drill!'

Although a rivet gun is usually a little easier on the pocket, so is a manual screwdriver, but not many people would favour that over the savings in effort a power tool gives.

By the same token, if you're putting up a shed and have hundreds of rivets to pop, you will be thanking your lucky stars that you have the option of using a RiveDrill. It comes with three nose pieces to suit common rivet sizes. ozito.com.au



CRESCENT COMPOUND PLIERS

Using the same kind of compound lever action as found on bolt cutters and aviation shears, these compound pliers, \$28, exert a dramatically higher amount of pressure than ordinary pliers. The mechanical advantage makes it easier for Dad to put the squeeze on any workpiece.

They come in the long-nose option shown here, plus linesman's pliers and diagonal cutters, all featuring induction hardened cutting edges and spring-loaded action with a locking lever to keep them closed when not in use. cooperhandtools.com.au



RYOBI NOISE CANCELLING HEADPHONES

Protect your hearing while you work with these powered earmuffs, \$80, with active noise attenuation and an auxiliary input for listening to music.

Featuring technology that lets you hear what people are saying at close range, the circuitry includes quick-response impulse protection that shuts out sudden blasts of loud noise. The headset comes with a 4V Li-ion battery and charger, and is resistant to impact, dust and water. ryobi.com.au



CRAFTRIGHT THREE-IN-ONE BITS



If you thought a combination countersink bit was a great idea, and you always keep a Quick Bit sleeve lodged in your drill chuck, you'll love this set of three-in-one bits.

The master barrel is compatible with the 1/4in Quick Bit system and holds a double-ended insert that has a combination countersink bit at one extreme and a driver bit at the other.

This awesome time-saver lets you drill and countersink the pilot hole in one action, then flip the end and drive the screw straight away. The kit, \$12, from Bunnings has combination bits to suit six to 12 gauge screws, and the driver bits are also interchangeable.



STANLEY FATMAX 400MM DIGITAL LEVEL



The spirit level is a simple tool that has stood the test of time. The digital level, from \$80, heralds a new era in checking for plumb and level. In addition to bubble vials, the tool beeps when it's horizontal, vertical, or at 45°. It also features a backlit LCD screen, and shows the exact tilt with a precision of 0.1°. It can be switched to show percentage gradient and rise over run, and has magnetised edges. stanleytools.com.au

MASTERLOCK SPHERO

The combination lock is also a concept that has been around for decades, but one that lights up when you turn the dial? Now that's something worth writing home about.

Perfect on gates or sheds that are often accessed after dark, or lockers in dimly lit halls, the G.I.o Sphero, \$30, has a backlit dial and sleek spheroid shape, with a range of colour options to choose from. masterlock.com.au

