

## **Alarm on one meant to be heard over rocket engines**

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A wristwatch that just tells time? That's so 20th century! Today's watches can do everything from tracking kids to holding an entire PDA's worth of data. Whether you're looking for a special-purpose watch or something for everyday wear, this 2004 roundup proves that high-tech watches aren't just for geeks anymore.

**Audiovox GMRS Wristwatch:** One of the leading manufacturers of two-way radios has introduced a wrist-based version of its push-to-talk products -- sort of. The GMRS is a 22-channel two-way radio with a wrist strap, so it's either a large "watch" or a small radio. It features a built-in LCD screen, rechargeable battery, VOX capability for hands-free talking and a two-mile range. It's a neat device for campers and shoppers, but too bulky for a formal night out. Suggested retail price: \$39.99

**Matsucom onHand PC:** A PDA too big for you? The onHand puts a 3.6Mhz, 16-bit CPU with 128 kilobytes of SRAM and 2 megabytes of flash memory on your wrist: that's geekspeak for a lot of computing power in a little package. A large screen and integrated joystick allow navigation through a menu-based operating system. The onHand gets our gee-whiz award for having the most features of any PDA-style watch, backed by a Web site that is packed with software, games and surprises. Heck, it even tells time and looks cool to boot! Suggested retail price: \$139. [www.matsucomusa.com](http://www.matsucomusa.com)

**Omega X-33:** Looking for something truly out of this world? The Omega "Mission to Mars" X-33 was designed with the cooperation of NASA and is frequently found on the wrists of astronauts. The titanium-cased beauty features an anti-reflective sapphire crystal, countdown function, stopwatch, multiple time zones, digital and analog readouts and a backlight so powerful it doubles as a flashlight. The crowning feature on this virtually indestructible quartz marvel is its 80-decibel alarm, designed to be heard over the roar of rocket engines. Suggested retail price: from \$2,695.

**Seiko Kinetic Arctura:** Tired of changing batteries or winding your watch? Seiko offers the world's only "human powered chronograph," utilizing its proprietary kinetic technology. The movement of a wearer's wrist powers the watch and stores the power for up to six months. The Kinetic is sleek, and has been spotted on comedian Jay Leno's wrist. Suggested retail price: from \$375.

Sharp Atomic Timer: Does anybody really know what time it is? You do, with the Sharp Atomic Timer, which receives a radio signal from the government's cesium atomic clock transmitter in Fort Collins, Colo. Wear this watch and forget about having an excuse for being late anymore. Suggested retail price: \$50.

Suunto M9 Personal Sailing Instrument Watch: One of the ultimate nautical watches, the M9 provides cruising and racing sailors everything they need to stay on course via a GPS receiver. Like all Suunto products, this is a robust, easy-to-use watch, packed with features like a barometer, thermometer, 3D compass, rechargeable battery and a PC interface. Suunto's Sail Manager software allows a user to upload specific race tracks to the watch as well as plan trips based on huge online catalog of global ARCS marine charts. The Skipper and Gilligan could have maintained their three-hour tour schedule with one of these babies. Suggested retail price: \$725.

Suunto X6 HR: The Suunto offers an amazing array of tools for hikers, mountaineers or cross-country skiers. This sturdy, brushed stainless steel-cased monster features an altimeter, barometer, digital compass, watch, alarm, and heart rate monitor. The X6 HR includes software to catalog your activities on your PC. Like all Suunto products, the controls are intuitive and the watch features a user-changeable battery. Suggested retail price: \$499.

Timex Ironman Digital Data Link: Timex has a solution for the executive on the run: a tough sports watch with a PC link and enough memory to hold your PDA's calendar and contacts. This personal organizer stores hundreds of names and appointments, and features full sports functions: 200-lap chronograph, water resistance, stop watch, countdown timers and alarms. The Timex gets a nod for ease of use, small profile and stylish looks. Suggested retail price: \$90.

Citizen Hyper Aqualand Professional Diving Watch: Everything the recreational diver needs to know in a handsome package that beats any commercial dive computer for fit, finish and function. Fully logs up to 30 dives, and has a depth gauge, ascent alarms, temperature log and PC interface. The dive watch for the money. Suggested retail price: \$595.

Whereify GPS Locator for Kids: It's every parent's dream come true: 24/7 access to their child's whereabouts. Whereify's GPS watch transmits a signal that can track a wearer's location within several feet, via any phone line or the Internet. Internet monitoring provides eye-in-the sky maps that can be zoomed in. The Whereify resembles a large plastic bracelet that is locked onto a child's wrist and features an atomic clock, built-in pager and 911 help button. We have met Big Brother and he is us! Suggested retail price: \$199. Requires a monthly subscription for service as well. [www.whereify.com](http://www.whereify.com)

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Steve Lundin shows off watches that are on the market. One watch available today receives a radio signal from the government's cesium atomic clock transmitter in Fort Collins, Colo.  
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