

## **There's no present like the time**

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Expect to see more technology crammed into smaller spaces in this season's crop of the coolest timepieces. Plummeting prices and holiday deals on these special-purpose watches make it nearly impossible to own just one. There are watches available for capturing and cataloging data from virtually every aspect of your business and personal life.

So go ahead and indulge.

### HUMMINBIRD SMARTCAST RF35 FISH FINDING WATCH

Hemingway would have loved it! Simply attach the SmartCast's sonar sensor to your fishing line, and cast away. The wireless sensor returns detailed information on the whereabouts of your prey in real time. The unit features proximity alarms, sensitivity level, depth range and fish identifier. All you need is bait and an excuse to get out of the office for a day; \$84.99;

[www.humminbird.com](http://www.humminbird.com)

### IBEAM OPTICAL TIMEPIECE

Call it the MacGyver of cool watches. While not the highest tech of the bunch, the iBEAM features two items that you'll wonder how you ever lived without: Press a spring loaded button, and a 5X magnifying lens pops up; press a second button and you'll activate a high-intensity LED flashlight. It has a stainless steel case and Japanese quartz movement; \$100;

[www.ibeamtime.com](http://www.ibeamtime.com)

### ALMEDA TIME MULTIPLE VIBRATING ALARM WATCH

The Almeda (for ALarm MEDical Alerts) was developed for monitoring multiple daily doses of medication, but it can be used for myriad reminders. The watch features six programmable chiming and vibrating alarms that are coded to pulsating visual confirmation dots on the watch's face. Avail-able in several strap combinations. We like the Knight with a woven mesh bracelet; \$195; [www.amedatime.com](http://www.amedatime.com)

### THANKO FMP3 WATCH

The designers of this watch were clearly inspired by the Spy Museum in Washington, D.C. Beneath its rather boring exterior lies an audio device that can covertly record up to 1 gigabyte of conversation. Spies are supposed to look nondescript, remember.

It also records audio from direct sources, such as CD players, and features an FM transmitter for playback through a radio. Imagine being able to instantly record and embarrass your guests at the Holiday party: priceless; \$107; [www.raremonoshop.com](http://www.raremonoshop.com)

## SUUNTO D9 DIVING WRIST COMPUTER

Unencumber your dive kit with Suunto's wireless diving transceiver/watch. All the critical information that you need is on your wrist:

depth, time, water temperature, tank pressure (with optional transceiver), decompression status and electronic compass.

The built-in dive log enables you to track your dives and maintain a database on your computer. This large watch is cased in solid titanium with a sapphire crystal; \$1,099; [www.suunto.com](http://www.suunto.com)  
Speedtech WW1 Weather Watch Pro

If sticking your head out the door or listening to the morning news doesn't fill your daily weather fix, then the WW1 is the watch for you.

This Swiss- made gadget is designed for yacht racers, and features an ingenious magnetized impeller to measure wind speed and direction. Other features include readouts for temperature, barometric pressure, wind chill, altimeter, day and date and a timer; \$145; [www.speedtech.com](http://www.speedtech.com)

## PANATIME NAUTICFISH

Just can't make up your mind about which kind of dive watch to buy? The German-made Panatime Diver Advance is a solid dive watch available in a variety of face, hand and strap configurations. Choose blue, orange or black faces; blue, orange or black hands; and red, orange, blue, black, yellow or white Italian- made straps. This sturdy steel chronometer is waterproof to 1,000 feet; \$399; [www.panatime.com](http://www.panatime.com)

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Tokyoflash is a company that specializes in funky Japanese watches that throw function out the window and concentrate on form. The latest offering is this wild numerically named watch that uses 31 green, yellow and red LEDs to display time, date and day. An auto light-up function displays the time every quarter hour between 6 p.m. and midnight; \$84; [www.tokyoflash.com](http://www.tokyoflash.com)  
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Color Photo: Richard A. Chapman/Sun-Times / Humminbird SmartCast RF35

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Color Photo: Richard A. Chapman/Sun-Times / Steve Lundin displays the Suunto D9 Diving Wrist Computer (also in photo below), a watch that not only keeps time but enables divers to know a number of factors that could prove important while under water.

Color Photo: Richard A. Chapman/Sun-Times / Speedtech WW1

Color Photo: Richard A. Chapman/Sun-Times / Tokyoflash watch

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