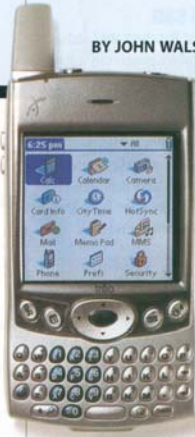


TOP GEAR SPECIAL

EDITORS' CHOICE!

When repo men finally reclaim all our cool shit, we'll miss this stuff the most.

BY JOHN WALSH PHOTOGRAPHS BY SHINICHI MARUYAMA



PALMONE TREO 600 \$450

Leave your Sprint PCS phone alone with a Palm OS organizer for a night and see what happens. This pocket-size mobile with QWERTY keyboard supports every wireless app you can think of: text messaging, e-mail, Web browsing. It even has a built-in digital camera. Not bad for a bastard child. (handspring.com)

★ AT A GLANCE

Phone	<input type="checkbox"/>
PDA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Interface	<input type="checkbox"/>



VIRGIN PULSE VP-07 \$70

It looks like an old prop swiped from the set of *Buck Rogers*, and we consider that a plus; anything that reminds us of Erin Gray prancing around in tight-fitting silver space-age spandex wins points in our books. This Virgin Pulse CD/clock radio with a purty li'l price tag employs a clever pitched face design, so that discs (including CD-R/RWs) easily slide in and out like pieces of toast. Music blares from two front-firing stereo speakers, and the quality is surprisingly good for a low-watt nightstand setup. Unlike many clock radios, this one integrates two audio jacks, so you and your sister can listen in at the same time. Also in the mix: 25 presets for AM, FM, and weather bands (the reception was

spotty at times); alarm, snooze, and backup battery power for surviving blackouts. The only major drawback: a blinding LED display with no brightness control. We could actually read from this light source... if only our lips didn't get so tired. (virginpulse.com)

★ AT A GLANCE

Sound	<input type="checkbox"/>
Design	<input type="checkbox"/>
Value	<input type="checkbox"/>



NUCLEUS MICRO \$150 to \$200 apiece

Remember your cousin Clarence with that huge misshapen head? He talked funny, didn't he? Maybe a tad shrill in the

midrange, with muddy bass notes? That wasn't a speech impediment: The shape of Clarence's head actually affected the sound of his voice. Anthony Gallo Acoustics puts this very simple principle into practice

with these speaker orbs. Their unique shape helps eliminate external diffraction, the dissonant result of sound traveling through a square speaker cabinet. Just four inches in diameter, Nucleus Micros are small enough to place

anywhere, but they're as heavy as grapes. It's a small price to pay for 100 watts of distortion-free audio, which is loud enough to drown out even Clarence's jarring whoops come *Matlock* hour. (roundsound.com)

★ AT A GLANCE

Sound	<input type="checkbox"/>
Design	<input type="checkbox"/>
Value	<input type="checkbox"/>

"Editors Choice Top Techno. This Virgin Pulse CD/clock radio with a purty li'l price tag employs a clever pitched face design so that discs (including CD-R/RW's) easily slide in and out like pieces of toast. Music blares from two front firing stereo speakers, and the quality is surprisingly good."