



GADGETS

# TECH

THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME

## HEAR AND NOW

Spotlight on the latest objects of desire  
By **Jonathan Margolis**

### KEF MUO BLUETOOTH SPEAKERS

Bluetooth speakers that play remarkable stereo from a near-pocketable little box come in all varieties and qualities now. So why not choose one by of the most elite serious hifi manufacturers, KEF of Maidstone? The £300 KEF Muo is the creation of industrial designer Ross Lovegrove and based on his mind-blowing £140,000 KEF Muon speakers. The Muo can be placed horizontally or vertically. It plays great stereo, but buy two, one as a left speaker, one as a right, and you get a real hifi that can still fit into the bottom of a travel bag. [kefdirect.com](http://kefdirect.com)



### LEICA SL (TYP 601) MIRRORLESS CAMERA

Germany's Leica was the world's first maker of portable cameras and remains the finest 100 years on. It is in a phase of expanding its model range now, and its SL (Typ 601) is its first mirrorless camera – the kind that has interchangeable lenses, like a Canon or Nikon DSLR, but not much more than half the size. The SL is still no pocket camera, but the photos from its massive sensor are extraordinary. Not cheap, though – think £5,000+ with a basic lens. [leica-camera.com](http://leica-camera.com)



### HIGH OCTANE RIDE INTELLIGENT EXERCISE BIKE

High intensity exercise has become widely accepted as a good deal more than a gimmick. As many academic papers confirm, short bursts of maximum effort can be highly effective in getting you fit. London company High Octane Ride has been supplying an internet-connected static bike to high-end financial companies for over a year, and has now developed this £2,400 home edition. Ten minutes exercise, three times a week, each session with just two 20-second max-energy bursts, will achieve fitness. And it's all trackable on an app, naturally. [highoctaneride.com](http://highoctaneride.com)



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Essential new apps reviewed

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Ben Hammersley on bad genes

The new Skoda Superb estate

3 MINS



### SANDISK ULTRA MICRO SD CARD

When will storage stop shrinking? Never, we hope, although there has logically to come a time when it can get no smaller. The extraordinary SanDisk Ultra microSDXC UHS-I card, Premium Edition, covers considerably less ground than a fingernail, yet stores 200Gb with high-speed data transfer – typically it can ingest 1,200 photos a minute. That 200Gb capacity is enough for 20 hours of full HD video. Put another way, the tiny chip has 600 times the storage of a top-line laptop of 20 years ago. Around £140. [sandisk.co.uk](http://sandisk.co.uk)

### PUNKT MP 01 MOBILE PHONE

The often unrecognised genius of Britain's Vertu luxury mobile phone brand is that it acknowledges that a lot of busy, high-status people don't need a smartphone as they communicate wholly by voice call and text. This, the Punkt phone, from a clever Swiss company run by a Norwegian from Italy, does nothing more than make great sounding calls, text and look superb – all for £229, direct from Switzerland. Designed by Jasper Morrison in London, it's classically simple, technically minimalist and offers exceptional battery life. [punkt.ch](http://punkt.ch)



## WORK IT OUT

Apps to tackle office stress.

By **Craig Grannell**

**Notability** offers far more than Apple's recently revamped Notes app, and is an especially great buy if you're armed with an iPad. Although visually aping real-life notebooks, through 'pages' and optional lined paper, Notability embraces digital. You can import and annotate PDFs and web pages, mix handwriting and typed text, and bring in photos that can be resized and dragged about. The best bit, though, is audio recording. In a meeting, plonk down your device to record everything it hears. Any notes you take animate when you play back the recording, and you can tap them to quickly get to moments that need clarifying.



**The Executive** helps you take out your frustrations on the business world. If a meeting is annoying, you might need more of an outlet than scribbling rude sketches of colleagues. So fire up this unhinged fighting game, in which workload stresses have mutated everyone into monsters. Only the hero remains calm and collected enough to battle the forces of darkness. You tap and swipe to fight your way through short levels, simultaneously growing the company in a subplot that earns you cash for power-ups while you sleep. It's utterly ridiculous, but hugely rewarding when you down two encroaching foes with lightning-fast strikes. And you'll perhaps also be thankful any annoying co-workers you have to contend with aren't quite literally out for your blood. *Notability*: iOS £4.49; *The Executive*: Android, £2.41, iOS, £3.99 ■

### AMBI CLIMATE AC CONTROL

If you spend time in a warm climate, you know how useless air conditioner remote controls are. Most people end up just setting them to max and waiting for the place to get like a fridge. This new, £125 universal aircon remote, AmbiClimate, from a clever Hong Kong startup, changes all that. It makes most AC units controllable from a smartphone app and learns your personal comfort levels via cloud-based AI. [ambiclimate.com](http://ambiclimate.com)



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