
ELECTRONICS IN OUR LIVES

High-Tech Electronics Made Easier

(NAPSA)—PC, DVD, LCD, MP3, GPS—before you get an acronym M.I.G.R.A.I.N.E., you can become tech savvy with just a few simple buying guidelines from HSN's Gadget Guy, Joe Harrison. And most importantly, this year's electronic systems will not require trend-driven and costly upgrades.

Here are some simple guidelines for this year's top electronics purchases.

1. Now PCs will last through trends if you make sure to get one with hyperthreading technology, which nearly doubles processor performance and speed. The notebook or laptop version of this technology is Centrino. The only thing you will need to update is RAM or memory space but not for years to come.

2. Need a new TV? Now it's the industry standard to have a high-definition tuner, which provides the clearest picture. There is no need to upgrade and it will last for decades.

3. Digital Video Recorders, a.k.a. DVR, TiVo and Replay TV, are not going away (and how did we live without them anyway?). And now, you can record programs by burning them on DVD much like you use VHS to tape your favorite programs.

4. The newest in GPS navigation technology for your car is built-in memory, which automatically memorizes your routes so you will never get lost.



5. When it comes to MP3 players, cheaper is definitely not better. If you spend a little more on the ticket price, you will save in the long term. Most importantly, make sure you buy a music player with a rechargeable AND replaceable battery. As a bonus, some even have a mini album feature to share photos.

6. You still don't have Satellite Radio? Well, neither does most of mainstream America but that may change this year with the introduction of a smaller, more portable radio that can easily be removed from the car and placed in a home stereo or boom box with simple attachments.

This may be the year to update your home electronics. Purchasing lasting and compatible equipment does not have to break the bank. As Harrison says, "Just buy smart to start and you won't need costly upgrades."

Joe Harrison appears regularly on the TV shopping network, HSN. Go to hsn.com for more information on buying electronics.