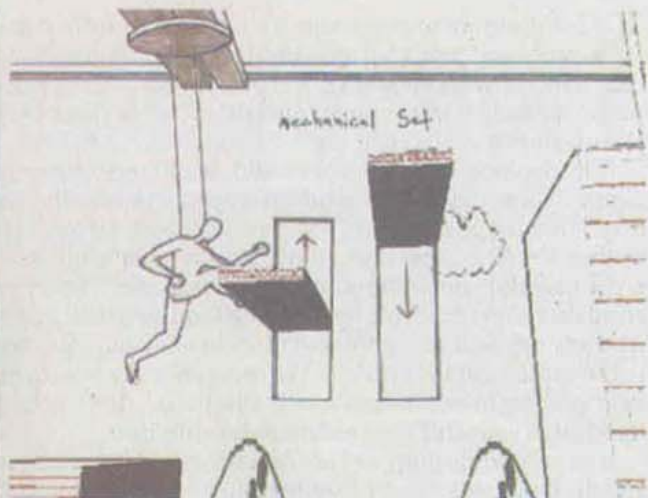




Mario can jump four times his height, and soon so

could you. The Nintendo Amusement Park is a project by three New York University students who want to create a life-size obstacle course based on Super Mario Bros. that lets players strap into a bungee system to jump 12 feet in the air, smash Goombas, collect coins and snag magic mushrooms, just like in the classic video game. The game is a product of NYU's Big Games class, which was responsible for PacManhattan, a re-creation of Pac-Man on the

Strap Up and Jump Like Mario



streets of New York. The Nintendo Amusement Park is an obstacle course navigated with a "power-assist harness" that gives players the superhuman abilities of video-game characters. "We started off with the idea of making a real-life duplicate of the game," said Noah Shibley, one of the amusement park's creators. The students say they are paying homage to the game company that inspired them, and hope Nintendo will eventually team with them to develop an advanced version of their "augmented-reality" game.

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iRiver clix 2-GB Portable Media Player

The clix is a gem of a media player. The entire device is 2.7 x 1.8 x 0.6 inch with a bright, 2.2-inch, 260,000-colour display. Uncluttered by buttons or scroll wheels, this gadget has the slickest menus I've ever seen: The screen itself is a four-way rocker -- you press down on an edge to navigate. However, there's a downside to the design -- my greasy fingers had a tendency to smudge up the high-gloss screen. Sound and video playback are great though, with a clear picture and crisp, clean audio. And it supports most audio and video formats (sadly not DivX or XViD). Want more? There's a digital FM radio tuner, games, five-band EQ, Macromedia Flash player, voice recorder and alarm clock. Just don't try giving it to your prospective fiancée instead of a diamond.



A scooter that runs on air

This could sound like a load of hot air, but a mechanic in Rajasthan says he can run his scooter on air! Hari Narayan Prajapati, 35, astonished people here recently when he drove his scooter using air as fuel. He covered a distance of half a kilometre with a total of 150 pounds of air in a special fuel cylinder attached to the vehicle. Prajapati has been working on this project for the last four years. The scooter runs at a speed of 20 km per hour and can accommodate only one person. The vehicle is like a regular scooter and starts with a kick. However, the accelerator wire of the scooter is directly connected to the air fuel tank. "I have spent about Rs.150,000 on my project. Though it was a huge amount, what made it worthwhile was that I succeeded," said Prajapati.