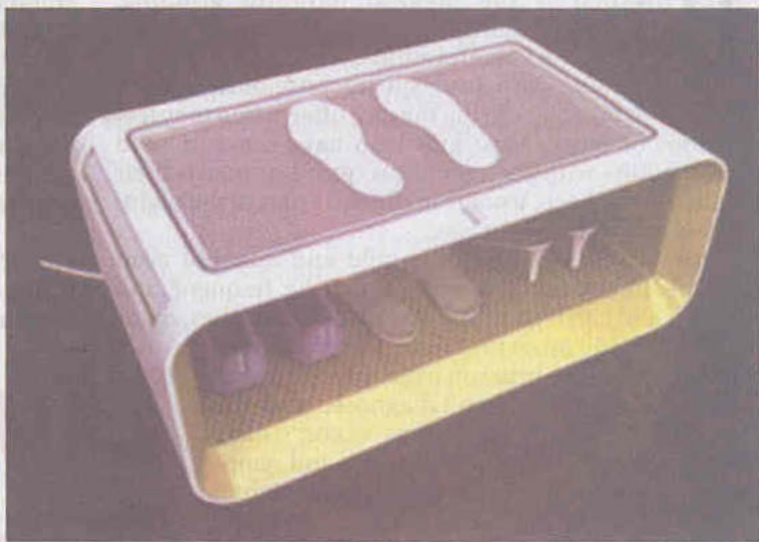


How Vampire bats ID prey

German scientists say they've discovered vampire bats -- the only mammals to feed exclusively on blood -- recognise prey by the sound of its breathing. In a study conducted by Udo Groeger and Lutz Wiegrebe at Ludwig Maximilians-University in Munich, two vampire bats were taught to associate recordings of different humans breathing with different cattle blood dispensers, providing food rewards. They were then played short clips of people breathing and had to associate them with the correct individual by going to the correct dispenser. The vampire bats were able to spontaneously associate the clips with the particular individuals, regardless of whether the individual was recorded breathing at rest or breathing while under physical strain. Human participants were also able to recognise some clips, but they were unable to recognise the sounds of breathing recorded under physical strain.



Say no to Funky Footwear

At one time or another, we all suffer from the dreaded "stinkfoot." Yes, there are topical applications that mask the odor emanating from your kicks. But the real culprit is moisture, specifically that produced by the more than 250,000 sweat glands in the foot, which creates a fertile environment for odor-causing bacteria. Designer Michael Kritzer's Shumidor strikes at the heart of the problem. The Shumidor allows air to flow in creating "mini vortexes" that circulate air around all the surfaces of your shoes, removing any traces of moisture and preventing bacteria build up. Biodegradable "airisoles," shaped like the inner shoe's sole, can be placed in the Shumidor to neutralise any existing funk on your footwear. Eco-friendly and, perhaps, ingenious.



Portable Pharmacist

The Rx Master doesn't actually prescribe drugs but it manages your medication in just about every other way. The Excalibur Electronics device explains the uses of the most commonly prescribed drugs, has info on possible side effects and interactions with other drugs, tells you what to do if you miss a dose and gives pricing for generic brands. It can also store your doctor's contact info, maintain your drug schedule and tell you when to take your medication. And did I mention it has a built-in pill drawer?