Lazy Drinker

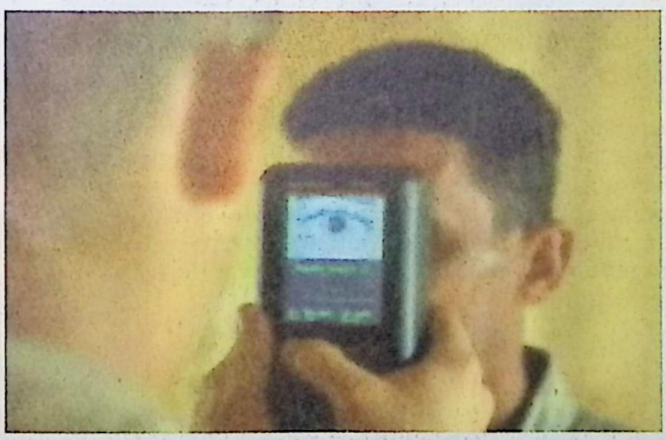


There are few better examples of technology serving mankind than The Lazy Drinker. It looks like your average ice chest, but it's actually a computerised cocktail maker. The unit has a capacity for 16 ingredients and ice; you supply the CO2 and a PC or Mac (in beta). The accompanying software has a database of 5,000 drinks and extra large onscreen buttons.

Self-Charging Smoke Alarm

On a list of household hassles, changing the smoke alarm battery falls somewhere between taking out the trash and cleaning the gutters. Of course, it should be a much higher priority, and Dupont's self-charging smoke alarm makes it easier to stay safe. You just screw it into a light socket, then screw a lightbulb into the alarm. Whenever the light is on, the unit charges, and it'll operate for 30 days at full-power. No need to haul out a ladder when you need to test it either just flip the light switch twice to make sure it's still juiced.

Handheld Retinal Scans in Iraq



In an effort to tell friend from foe and weed out enemies in their ranks, the Iraqi army is submitting to handheld retinal scans courtesy of the United States Marine Corps. Using a Biometric Automated Toolset System, the marines are able to get a positive I.D. on members of the Iraqi army, helping to eliminate the threat of Al Qaeda operatives inside the military. The handheld scanners are accurate enough to produce only one false acceptance in 1.2 million scans, and they're small enough to add negligible weight to a soldier's pack.

Language Lessons for iPod Travellers

Next time you're overseas and want to mix with the locals, instead of anxiously thumbing through a well-worn language dictionary, you can just consult your iPod. Each of CyraKnow's iPod-ready Rambler Audio Language Phrase Books contains 900 words and phrases recorded by native speakers for accurate pronunciation. You merely call up a category on you iPod menu, select the word or phrase you're looking for and listen. The books are available in French, German, Italian and Spanish.



Source: AFP, Wired and Webindia123

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