

Electronic gifts are great for students

Let's say you have a budding executive, scientist, doctor or professional coming home from college for winter break, and are looking for just the right holiday gift.

You could buy that sweater that somehow will never be worn. Or, you could buy a gift that will give your scholar the edge in both academic and professional life.

"Almost every student, in every discipline, can benefit from one of the electronic study aids available," says Thomas P. Friel, vice president of the Electronic Industries Association/Consumer Electronics Group (EIA/CEG). "And, in today's information-driven world, there is no better study aid for the college student than a home computer."

From small laptop computers that can be taken to the classroom to large-memory desktop models, there is a computer for every student in every field of study.

Unlike many other choices, a computer is much more than a gift. It is a necessary tool that will be used years after graduation. And, if the student on your list already has a home computer, chances are that new software, a laser printer or a high-resolution color monitor could be the answer to your gift needs.

"If a computer doesn't fit your student's needs, a dedicated word processor or 'smart' typewriter with word processing functions is certain to be appreciated," says Friel.

Another great consumer electronics gift for the college student is a cassette recorder. Affordably priced audio recorders are not just enjoyable, they are also invaluable study aids for taking lecture notes or conducting interviews for student papers.

Other gift ideas that will make the grade:

- A new calculator. From the credit card-sized multi-function calculators that fit neatly into the pocket to desktop scientific models, there is a calculator for every student's need and budget. There are even models that offer the bonus of address and telephone number storage.

- A stocking stuffed with useful accessory items, such as premium blank audio tape, computer discs and batteries.

- A digital desk clock, alarm watch or electronic notepad/reminder to keep busy students on schedule.

- Electronic spelling aids, dictionaries and language translators that contain vocabularies for different languages.

If your student is living in a dorm, there are gifts from the world of consumer electronics that can make that lonely room seem more like home.

For the musically inclined, an electronic instrument, such as keyboard, synthesizer or electronic guitar can

help your student unwind from the day's studies.

Entertainment items like a color television, portable AM/FM stereo cassette player or personal stereo with mini-speakers will also go a long way toward making a sterile dorm more livable.

Yet other welcomed gifts to consider are portable personal TVs or VCRs. And, a gift that you will appreciate as much as your student is a telephone that will keep you closer during the college

year.

Says Friel: "Consumer electronics have changed the nature of the classroom and today's student can benefit from dozens of items that make studies more productive and enjoyable."

"This holiday season is a perfect time to give the student in your life—whether it's a grade schooler or a grandmother returning for a master's degree—an electronic gift that will take the drudgery out of education."

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