

## DR. MAC

# From Macs to speakers, more gift ideas for dads, grads

By **BOB LeVITUS**

FOR THE CHRONICLE

Here are more items I recommend without hesitation for the dad or grad in your life.

Since we all know hard disks will always fail in time, consider whether the data on your loved one's hard drive is properly protected.

If not, consider Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard (\$129; [www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com)), which includes the idiot-proof Time Machine backup solution.

Or consider a brand new Mac, which has Leopard and iLife '08 pre-installed at no additional cost (from \$599; [www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com)). I'm currently testing a 24-inch iMac (from \$1,799) and a 17-inch MacBook Pro (from \$2,799).

Or, another way to help them protect data and memories is an external hard disk for backups. SimpleTech

([www.simpletech.com](http://www.simpletech.com)), Iomega ([www.iomega.com](http://www.iomega.com)), and Other World Computing ([www.macsales.com](http://www.macsales.com)) and LaCie ([www.lacie.com](http://www.lacie.com)) offer hard drives in various sizes, shapes, and capacities, with prices starting at about \$100.

If your dad or grad is one of the few without an iPod, now's a good time to buy one because they've never been less expensive, with iPod shuffle models starting at a mere \$49.

Or, if they're among the many who already have iPods (or iPhones), consider a classy carrying case from the Sena line, handcrafted from fine European leather (from \$39.99; [www.senacases.com](http://www.senacases.com)). Or check out the neoprene, silicon, clear acrylic and leather cases from Xtreme Mac (from \$19.95; [www.xtrememac.com](http://www.xtrememac.com)).

Consider portable speakers your loved one can use with an

iPod or iPhone. The Logitech Pure-Fi Anywhere portable speaker system (\$129.99; [www.logitech.com](http://www.logitech.com)) is my system of choice.

With its rechargeable battery, wireless remote control and surprisingly rich sound for its size, I have yet to find another portable speaker system I like as well. Or consider the smaller iMainGo (\$39.99; [www.imaingo.com](http://www.imaingo.com)), the best ultraportable iPod speaker system I've tested.

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