

15 TOOLS TO BUY BACK TIME (& 15 WAYS TO USE THE HOURS WISELY)

Our tech has a strange duality of purpose. It's designed to make quick work of our daily chores, yet swallows up our spare time. Choose the right tools, though, and that is no bad thing. We've collated a list of the best gadgets to streamline your days – and the toys you'll never regret lending an afternoon to. Block out your iCal

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CLAIM BACK YOUR FREE
TIME FROM THE CLUTCHES
OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY

TIME TO BURN

Make the most of your unscheduled hours

01



The Smart Puzzle

A cult toy that's still going strong, the GoCube takes the classic 1974 Rubik's Cube and makes it fit for 21st-century playtime. The new puzzle syncs with a smartphone to record your every move and the time it takes you to solve it, if you can, then lets you tackle new problems and games in the app. You can even compete in live online competitions. **GoCube Edge £97** getgocube.com

02

The Best Buds

The smallest truly wireless Bluetooth earphones around, these pocket-friendly powerhouses are perfect for runs, rides and workouts, or when dipping into your boxset downloads to liven up your daily commute. They're waterproof, pack six hours of battery and offer customisable sound. Plus, five minutes' charge bags you a full hour's listening. **Jaybird Vista £160** jaybirdsport.com

03



The Raised Roof

This two-person tree-tent takes care of two big camping moans: getting wet and bugs. Its waterproof fly-sheet repels rain while a two-grade insect mesh – and the tent's position off the ground – keeps out creepies and crawlies alike. **Tentsile Flite £363** tentsile.co.uk

04

The Smartboard

Darts is a great way to improve hand-eye coordination and focus, as well as curb stress. If you want to smarten up your game, this board fires the score from each throw to the ScoreBuddy app, freeing you from tricky sums. **Unicorn Smartboard £170** unicornsartboard.com

05

The Friend Finder

Whether you're lost in a Glastonbury crowd or off-piste in Courchevel, this tracker makes group adventures a lot easier. Sync up to 12 Lynqs and the GPS in each guides you to wherever your mates have wandered, within a three-mile range, without the need for any other connectivity. **Lynq £88** lynqme.com



06

The Segway Megadrive

Thought Segways were only for tourists to tamely roll around city streets? Think again. The two-wheel tech has been brilliantly converted into a kick-ass electric go-kart. The Ninebot packs Porsche Boxster-bothering acceleration (0-15mph in two seconds) and three different driving modes. If that doesn't rev your engine, there's a handbrake purpose-built for *Fast & Furious*-style drifting. **Segway Ninebot Electric Gokart £1,148** segwayfun.uk

08

The Piste de Resistance

Thrills on the slopes plus serious chills in après bars, skiing makes perfect use of scarce holiday time. These Swiss-designed, Italian-made ski boots are built for day and night. The outer boot works like any performance ski boot, but when you're done beasting the blacks, you can shed the shell and slink around alpine lodges in the stylish (and insulated) footwear hiding inside. **Dahu Écorce Ski Boot £695** skidahu.com



10



The Easy Rider

If you think scooters aren't fit for self-respecting grown-ups, well, we'd agree – with one very notable exception. The Boosted electric scooter reaches speeds of up to 24mph and is equipped to handle 25% gradients without losing too much speed. It also travels 22 miles on a single charge, so you won't run out of juice for your return leg, and has headlights to ensure you make it there one piece, too. Just don't use it to try and pick up your weekly shop. **Boosted Rev £1,599** boostedboards.com

09

The Stress Blocker

Kicking back in front of *The Lego Movie* is an MH-approved use of time, but if you want a stress-busting escape from screens, you're better off building. Taiwanese scientists noted an instant reduction in anxiety among study subjects after a two-hour brick session. This 1,087-piece replica of Apollo 11's Eagle lunar module – complete with gold landing pads and laser hatches – is perfect for spacing out. **Lego Lunar Lander £85** lego.com



11

The Fun Runner

Running for pleasure and mental well-being – as much as for fitness and fast times – is on the rise. Nike's experts clocked this and developed new tech for these trainers: tiny plastic beads shift, expand and contract to work with your unique gait. Great for go-slow miles when you just want to clear your head. **Nike Joyride Run Flyknit £160** nike.com



12

The Free Cycle

Human civilisation was built on the urge to explore – or so Prof Brian Cox keeps telling us. While this handlebar navigator is hardly a rocket to the moon, it's great for finding new routes. The SmartHalo's ring of light guides you to the fastest and safest routes. It also tracks your fitness goals in real time and sounds an alarm if anyone tries to make off with your wheels. **SmartHalo Bike Computer £129** smarthalo.bike



15

The Game Changer

VR gaming could soon make its way into the mainstream. With the Oculus Quest, you can be transported to virtual worlds without the faff of a complicated set-up, loads of external sensors and being chained to a computer. Just fire up the standalone headset and two touch controllers almost anywhere to whack tennis balls or slug it out with classic characters from the *Rocky* and *Creed* films. **Oculus Quest £399** oculus.com



13



The Maestro Maker

If you've never found the time to realise your Beethoven ambitions, Lumi is your toy. A bit like *Guitar Hero*, the keys light up to match the notes of your chosen tune. Unlike *Guitar Hero*, it primes you for the real deal, with a set-up that is almost identical to real grand piano keys. **Roli Lumi £195** roli.com

14

The Crafty One

This fully app-controlled beer maker walks you through the fermentation process to take your homemade brew from suspicious sludge to ice-cold perfection. When it is ready, pour straight from the keg – into a glass, or your mouth. **Mini Brew Craft £1,099** minibrew.io

