



Five of the best

WINTER SPORTS GADGETS

Strapping on your skis this winter? **Joe Minihane** tests the very best devices to make your sojourn to the slopes a success, whether you're on or off piste



Tooks Headphones Hat

While normal headphones don't sit comfortably under woolly hats, this Tooks beanie has speakers built in. Sound quality is surprisingly sharp and crisp considering the bargain price and the fact it needs to travel through wool to reach your lugholes.

The hat itself is snug and warm, but the lack of Bluetooth does mean it needs to be plugged into your MP3 player or phone using a cable and 3.5mm jack. Hardly an ideal solution and one that becomes a tad uncomfortable after a few tracks.

Price: £24.99
 Info: www.firebox.com

iTrailMap 3D

This app is a must-have if you've got an iPhone slipped inside your salopettes. Using the phone's GPS, it provides maps of key resorts throughout the Alps and Rockies, including Whistler, Kitzbühel and Saas-Fee. You get a 3D map view as well as flat 2D 'paper' rendering, along with the ability to track your vertical position and see how far you've skied. At £2.99, it's a bargain. However, as with many GPS-intensive iPhone apps, it can leave the battery running on empty, so don't forget to bring a regular map just in case.

Price: £2.99
 Info: www.bigarssoftware.com

Rip Curl S-Bomb Vest

This durable, mid-layer vest might not look like it can keep you toasty when temperatures plunge, but it's hiding a nifty secret. It has a flexible heating system in the lower back, which you can charge up before making for the mountain. A button on the right-hand side allows you to adjust the panel's heat, essentially turning the lower part of the vest into a portable electric blanket. It's thin, which means it doesn't turn you into the Michelin man and packs down tight into a backpack. At £200 though, only St Moritz scenesters need apply.

Price: £200
 Info: www.snowandrock.com

Veho Muvi Atom camera

No bigger than your thumb and weighing in at just 50g, the Muvi Atom camera is perfect for anyone looking to hurtle down black runs and fly off the top of mountains. It clips to clothing, so extreme sports types can record shots on-the-move. Although HD action cams are available, this is a cheap alternative for those who've just spent hundreds on hotels, flights and lift passes. It's surprisingly durable and easy to get to grips with, and with SD card support up to 2GB, you can easily swap out memory storage when you head out each morning.

Price: £89.99
 Info: www.veho-uk.com

Motorola TLKR T6

With an expansive 8km range, these all-new Motorola walkie-talkies are perfect for staying in touch with your mates when you're playing around in different parts of the resort. Battery life is a generous 16 hours, meaning they've got enough juice for two full days on the slopes before needing a recharge. The ruggedised body will withstand even the heftiest hit and the clip round the back lets you strap it onto your rucksack and keep up with your pals hands-free. At a penny shy of £60 for a pair, the TLKRs are a must-have bargain.

Price: £59.99
 Info: www.motorola.com