

Practical Help's Annual Holiday Gift Guide

2013

Each year we look at the various consumer technology offerings in the marketplace, and decide on the gifts we think would be great for our members to either give or receive. This year, we recommend:

1. A gift membership to Practical Help: <https://www.positek.net/plans/gift-memberships/> - we think that anyone who uses consumer technology can really use some help with it! A one-month gift is only **\$9.95US**, and a one-year gift is only **\$99US**. Give the gift of Practical Help!



2. **For under or about \$50US:**

- a. Google Chromecast, \$35US
<http://www.google.com/intl/en/chrome/devices/chromecast/>
- b. BitDefender Internet Security \$30US and up
http://www.amazon.com/Internet-Security-2013-PCs-1Year/dp/B008MR2ZP6/ref=pd_cp_sw_1
- c. Neoprene Tablet case (iPad or other) \$30US and up
<http://store.apple.com/us/ipad/ipad-accessories/cases#!> and www.amazon.com (search for "neoprene case" and your tablet model)
- d. 32gb Thumbdrive \$40 and up
<http://www.tigerdirect.com/applications/SearchTools/item-details.asp?EdpNo=8566665&CatId=3786>



3. **For under or about \$100US:**

- a. Apple TV \$99US <http://store.apple.com/us/ipod/ipod-accessories/apple-tv> and we suggest you add an HDMI cable since it doesn't come with one
<http://www.newegg.com/Product/Product.aspx?Item=N82E16812189053>
- b. All-Star Guitar from ION Audio – about \$60 for the guitar body (works you're your iPad) at <http://www.bhphotovideo.com/bnh/controller/home?O=&sku=927585&is=REG&Q=&A=details> and we suggest you add an iTunes gift card (the All-star app is free but has in-app purchases) <http://store.apple.com/us/personalize/itunes> and the app is at: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/all-star-guitar/id547387133>
- c. FitBit wristband (starting at just under \$100US) or an iFit module (\$99US) for their treadmill, stationary bike or NordicTrack.
<http://www.fitbit.com/store?gclid=COu1tOOx7LoCFXHxOgod1xsAoQ>
http://shop.ifit.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/Product_1_13051_14902_62001_145255
- d. Logitech Harmony Universal Remote \$80 for the 650 model) – easy to set up for them to replace all those remotes! <http://www.logitech.com/en-us/product/harmony-remote-650?crd=60>



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e. SmartHome has tons of different devices, such as intelligent light switches and outlets, sensors and controllers, or some great internet cameras starting at \$50 where you can keep an eye on things from anywhere. http://www.smarthome.com/_/Cameras_Surveillance/INSTEON/INSTEON/_/13/23b/3x5/nav.aspx



4. For thoughtful gifts over \$100US, we suggest:

- a. The new iPad Air, starting at \$499 <http://store.apple.com/us/buy-ipad/ipad-air>
- b. Microsoft lovers might appreciate a Surface tablet \$550 and up (we suggest nothing less than a Surface Pro 2: http://www.microsoftstore.com/store/msusa/en_US/html/pbPage.PDPS/productID.286867200?Icid=SurfaceCat_Hero_Rot_Surface_2_11.11.13
- c. Android lovers might want a Nexus 10 \$499 https://play.google.com/store/devices/details/Nexus_10_32GB?id=nexus_10_32gb
- d. If they love reading, a Kindle Fire HDX would be great http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B00BHJRYYS/ref=fs_ta



For any of the above or below, a **gift card** included in the box would be a thoughtful touch, since many gifts may require add-ons or parts/apps not included.

We're not big fans of the latest and greatest computers using Microsoft Windows these days, so we'd suggest a Macbook Air or Pro, starting at about \$1,000US

<http://store.apple.com/us/mac>. Along with that, Mac users might appreciate Office for Mac \$220: http://www.microsoftstore.com/store/msusa/en_US/pdp/Office-for-Mac-Home-and-Business-2011/productID.253736100 or Office for Mac Student \$140: http://www.microsoftstore.com/store/msusa/en_US/pdp/Office-for-Mac-Home-and-Student-2011/productID.253736200



New gaming consoles are available including the Sony Playstation Four, Microsoft's Xbox One, and the Nintendo 3ds XL. Plus tons of games for both these and their older versions.

- \$499 and up <http://playstation.greatnessawaits.com/> (not yet available, soon)
- \$499 and up <http://www.xbox.com/en-US/xbox-one/retailers>
- \$199 and up <http://www.nintendo.com/3ds/buy/>



but

If you don't know exactly what to get someone, put a little more personal touch to a gift card purchase by avoiding generic cards and choosing a gift card for a store or outlet where your gift recipient likes to shop. Always welcome: Amazon, iTunes/Apple, Google Play Store, Microsoft Store, Best Buy, Staples, or a favorite restaurant. You can spend just a few minutes researching your gift recipient (try social networking, a google search, or asking friends) to find out their likes and dislikes, and make your gift more meaningful and thoughtful.

