

WHAT TO BUY THE ELECTRONIC GAME ENTHUSIAST

▼ **The Wii Motion Plus** is a tiny device that attaches to the bottom of the Nintendo Wii remote, allowing for more accuracy. The device is supposed to make your movements on screen more closely match your movements off screen and promises to deliver real-time feedback. So if someone's pretty good on the Wii already, the Motion Plus will make them a hard-to-beat Wii warrior. *The add-on device can be purchased alone at Appliance Center for \$19.99 or with a new Wii remote for \$39.99, the same price as a normal remote without the Plus.*

► Also new this year is the **Kinect for the Xbox 360**, Microsoft's response to the motion sensing problem. Touted as a new style of gameplay sure to revolutionize the industry much as the Wii did a few years back, the Kinect uses no remote. In fact you don't need anything. With the Kinect you are the remote. The sensor actually detects your body's movements and your on screen avatar mimics the motion. Time will tell how the Kinect and Move will fare against the Wii but a completely hands-free experience might be enough to give the Kinect the edge. *Purchase it for \$149.99 at GameStop.* If you manage to find games such as "Kinectimals" and "Kinect Sports" you may actually be Santa Claus.

► No holiday party is going to be complete this year without a few turntable tussles between wannabe DJs. **The DJ Hero 2 Party Bundle** features a microphone and dual turntable controllers. The game itself promises a serious upgrade as well. Featured artists include Eminem, Lady Gaga, and Naughty By Nature. *Available for all the big consoles and priced at \$129 at Best Buy,* this gift will turn ho-hum parties into ho-ho-ho hot spots.

► Statistically the PC gamer does better in action games than the console player, in large part because of the precision of the computer mouse and the ease of the mouse-keyboard configuration. Now Playstation 3 owners can even the playing field. **The Splitfish FragFX mouse controller** allows for greater accuracy. The controller basically consists of a mouse for the right hand and a unique button setup on a separate controller for the left hand. *Available at Meijer stores with a starting price of about \$90. Unfortunately this is not available for Xbox 360.*

◀ When it comes to games, gamers are an impatient crowd, but here are some recent releases they may not have yet. Get confirmation from a friend or parent before purchasing. Wii titles include **"Donkey Kong Country Returns"** and **Disney's "Epic Mickey."** For the Xbox 360 and PS3 you're sure to please with **"Call of Duty: Black Ops," "Halo Reach," "Fallout New Vegas,"** or **"Assassin's Creed Brotherhood."** *Available at GameStop, Target, Meijer, Best Buy, and Walmart, prices can range from \$50-\$60. These titles are sizzling, so get them while they're hot!*

◀ This year Sony unveiled the **Move system for the PlayStation 3** and stores can't keep them on the shelf. The Move comes with a wand style remote and an accompanying navigation controller similar to the Wii's chuck. A motion-sensing camera tracks the wand's position and responds accordingly. *The Move system costs \$99 at GameStop.*

◀ Kids love Legos. We knew that already. The Lego video game industry releases title after title for the Lego Universe and rarely are they a tough sell. With the **Lego Play and Build Wii remote** tykes can now customize the remote itself. Complete with more than 30 minitiles and a battery cover that integrates with LEGO pieces allowing players to build unique display stands for unique remotes. It features larger buttons, an internal speaker with rumble effects, and is still compatible with the Wii Motion Plus. *Pick it up for \$39.99 at Toys 'R Us* and watch your child's eyes twinkle with delight when he or she tears through the paper.

◀ So they want to be rock stars, huh? Well, thanks to the **Rock Band Stage Kit**, turn any living room into a concert hall. Complete with flashing colored strobe lights and fake smoke, the stage kit promises to deliver the full rock-star experience. If you know someone who doesn't just play the game but tries to put on a show as well, this is a gift that will garner big hugs. *The stage kit can be found at Toys 'R Us for \$99. Groupies sold separately.*

◀ If your loved one already owns Call of Duty: Black Ops for the Xbox 360 then they will absolutely flip when he or she opens the **Call of Duty Black Ops PrecisionAIM controller** from Mad Catz. The controller features military style rubber grips, better trigger buttons, and killer Call of Duty graphics. The best thing about the controller is the addition of two buttons on the rear of the controller that allow players to enter PrecisionAIM mode. The effect is to slow down the analog stick feedback for a more accurate shot. The controller's button scheme can also be customized to assign actions to the rear buttons that would normally be used by the analog stick. This frees up the analog stick for greater motion control. *Available at GameStop, it's a must-have item at \$49.99.*

Gift ideas: Tom Fisher