

HOLIDAY COUNTDOWN

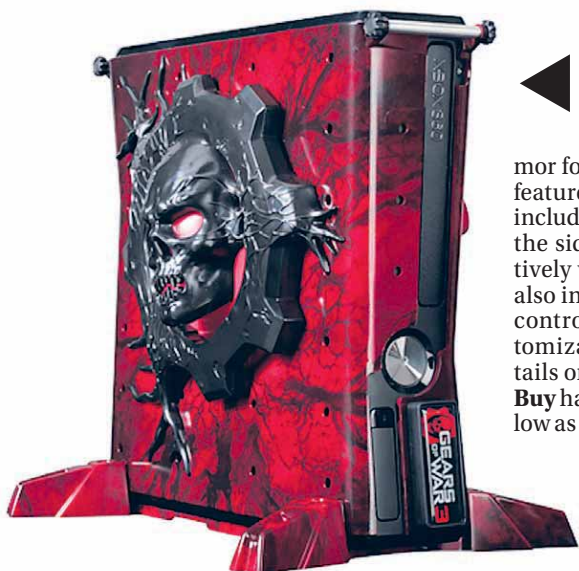


10 SHOPPING
DAYS LEFT

WHAT TO BUY VIDEO GAME ENTHUSIASTS

Someone on your list hooked on video games but snaps up the new releases the minute they become available? Well, you can always opt for a gift that complements their craving for the latest games.

— Thomas Fisher
BLADE STAFF WRITER



◀ **Gears of War Vault** — The Vault for the Xbox 360S, from maker Calibur 11, acts like armor for your console case. It features a stylish design and includes a pulsating light on the side that works interactively with the game play. It also includes a cradle for the controller as well as a customizable nameplate. It retails online for \$89, but **Best Buy** has it listed on sale for as low as \$49.



▲ **Hauppauge HD PVR Gaming Edition** — This little dandy is nothing short of bragging rights in a box. Here's the picture: You've just conquered that impossibly tough level of your favorite game and no one was around to see it. You try to tell your friends, but they just won't believe you. Now you can record your awesome accomplishments and prove your prowess to the world. Comes complete with cables for the Xbox 360 or the PS3 and can be found at **GameStop** for \$199.99.



▲ **Pelican Laptop Case** — Pelican cases are military tough, water tight, and air tight. The model 1495CC is a sturdy 17-inch case and features latches and a combination lock for added security. You can brag about your powerful laptop all day long, but if you walk in the room with a Pelican case, that says it all. You can have one custom fit at **Pelican.com**. Prices will vary, but be ready to spend about \$175-\$250. And don't forget to check out their assortment of protective gaming cases.



▲ **Laugh & Learn Apptivity iPhone Case** — High-tech toddlers are not a myth. They're out there and they love Mommy and Daddy's iPhone or iPod Touch. The Laugh & Learn Apptivity iPhone case from Fisher-Price has a protective cover to keep out drool and blocks the end button to keep baby from hanging up on Grandma. It features a wide design for easy handling and is perfect to use with Fisher-Price's free learning apps. It can be found at **Toys R Us** as well as other retailers ranging from \$15.99 to \$18.99.



▶ **Epiphone/Rocksmith Bundle** — Everyone who has ever spent any time playing Guitar Hero or RockBand has dreamed of wielding a real axe and fretting out some monster riffs. Epiphone, a leading guitar maker, has teamed with Ubisoft to include one of their junior models in a Rocksmith video game bundle. Your gamer can rock out with a bundle for the Xbox 360 and PS3 available at **Best Buy** for \$199.99.



▲ **iFrogz Vertex Headphones** — If you know someone who's looking for a great pair of over-the-ear headphones, you can't get a brand with better quality for a more reasonable price than iFrogz. The Vertex features a lightweight ergonomic design with superior sound as well as an in-line mic, making it perfect for the iPhone or iPod Touch gamer on your list. Available at **Best Buy** or **Walmart** for \$49.99.

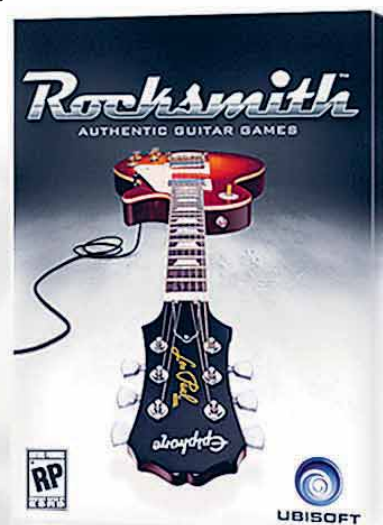
▶ **uDraw Game Tablet** — If you have an aspiring artist on your list, you can't go wrong with Ubisoft's uDraw Game Tablet for the Nintendo Wii. It's easy to learn and use and comes with a wide stylus for smaller hands. It's a big hit with youngsters and can be bought in a bundle with uDraw Studio and Spongebob Squigglepants for \$59.99 at **Walmart**.



◀ **Specialized controllers** — Always a big hit with gamers is a specialized controller for their favorite system. Makers MadCatz and PDP have a wide selection for Xbox360, PS3, or Wii. Any of these will garner bear hugs. They range from \$29-\$99 at gaming retailers and at **MadCatz.com**, **PDP.com**, or **Amazon.com**.



▶ **R.A.T. 7 Albino Gaming Mouse** — It's not just a mouse, it's a R.A.T! And this is the most customizable mouse on the planet. The R.A.T. series from Cyborg can be adjusted to fit your hand like a glove. It's the only white model in the R.A.T. Series, features six programmable buttons, and is compatible with both PC and Mac. You can find it at some limited gaming retailers and at **GameShark.com** or **MadCatz.com** for \$99.



▲ **Games** — OK, so you just can't help getting a game for your gamer, huh? Well, here are some titles that may be hard to find but will definitely make you Santa Claus if you're able to track them down: Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 3, Battlefield 3, Gears of War 3, Rage, Elder Scrolls: Skyrim, NBA 2K12, Mario & Sonic at the London 2012 Olympics (Wii only), Assassin's Creed: Revelations, LEGO Star Wars III: The Clone Wars, and Legend of Zelda: Skyward Sword (Wii only). Prices range from \$19-\$59.