

14

SHOPPING
DAYS LEFTWHAT TO BUY
HARD TO BUY FOR2015
HOLIDAY
GIFT GUIDE

"He/she is so hard to shop for!" is a common refrain this time of year, but it doesn't have to be. Mix a little creativity with a pinch of conviction and you'll find some offbeat gift-giving options. Here are 10 to get you started.

— MIKE PEARSON, BLADE FEATURES EDITOR

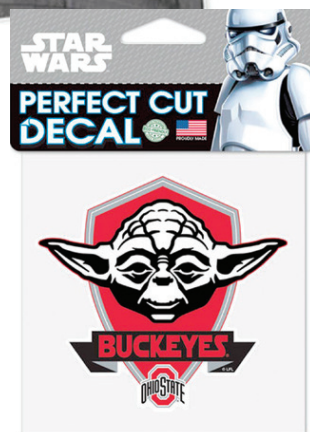
Suitcase turntable

Old school meets new in this throwback from Innovative Technology. It plays three speeds: 33, 45 and 78 RPM (\$43.99 and up). With vinyl making a comeback, it's the perfect gift for the audio snob who says CDs sound just too pristine. The player has built in speakers and is Bluetooth enabled, letting you stream sound directly to your headphones up to 33 feet away. **Kroger, Walmart, Amazon.**



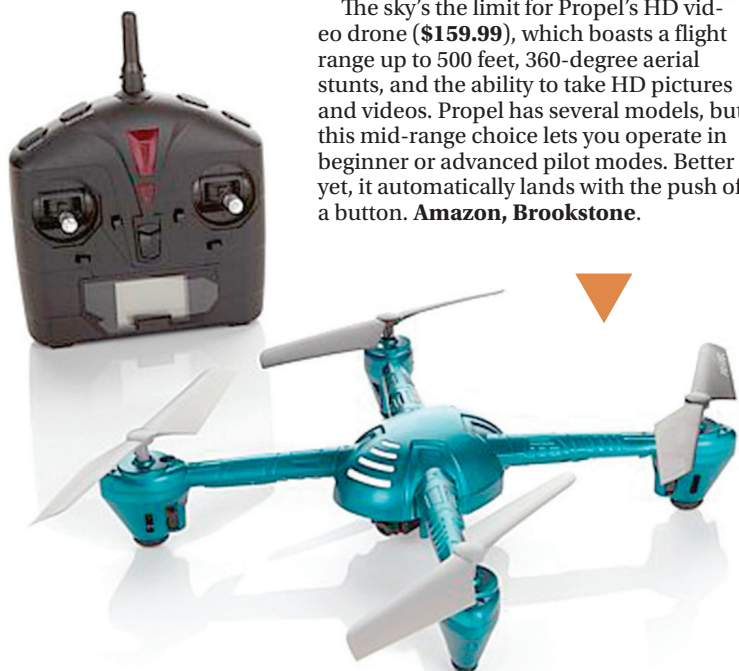
University 'Star Wars' gear

Is The Force with Ohio State this bowl season? How about the Wolverines or the Michigan State Spartans? Help fans express faith in both their favorite athletes and movie franchise with a plethora of Star Wars tie-ins, from penants and lanyards to T-shirts, mugs, cozies, and posters. No Jedi mind tricks required. \$7.99-\$39.99, **Buckeye Store & More** in Maa-mee, **bigtenstore.com.**



Propel HD video drone

The sky's the limit for Propel's HD video drone (\$159.99), which boasts a flight range up to 500 feet, 360-degree aerial stunts, and the ability to take HD pictures and videos. Propel has several models, but this mid-range choice lets you operate in beginner or advanced pilot modes. Better yet, it automatically lands with the push of a button. **Amazon, Brookstone.**



Dance lessons

Sam Cooke famously sang that "everybody loves to Cha-Cha," but what if you don't know how? Local dance studios offer lessons in everything from the Cha-Cha to the Samba to ballroom dancing to tap. Consider getting lessons for that special someone and, if need be, joining them. \$12 an hour and up, **thedanceclinic.com, offbroadwaydancecompany.com, dancetoledo.com.**

BISSELL Pet Hair Eraser

When it comes to removing pet hair from clothing, lint rollers are so last century. The four-pound BISSELL Pet Hair Eraser Hand Vac (\$29.99) includes a wall-mountable charger and a specialized rubber nozzle that attracts pet hair. Never again be mistaken for someone with hypertrichosis (werewolf syndrome). **Bed Bath & Beyond, Walmart, ebay.**



Shoe business

How about a gift that doesn't cost anything? The **Toledo Museum of Art's** Rise of Sneaker Culture exhibit features 160 tennis shoes dating to the mid-19th century. Special events include a 7 p.m. Jan. 28 appearance by performance group Hardcore Detroit, which will deliver an interactive break-dance battle and introduction to hip-hop forms popping, locking, jit dance, and more. **toledomuseum.org.**

THE RISE OF
**SNEAKER
CULTURE**
DEC. 3-FEB. 28



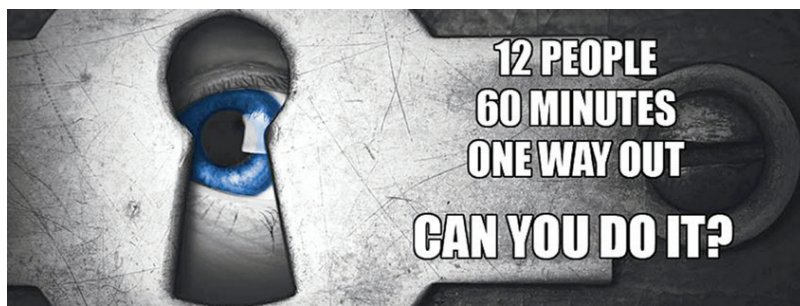
Lava lamps

You needn't be a refugee from the Age of Aquarius to enjoy the trippy ambiance of lava lamps. Once a staple of the '60s and '70s, the clear plastic cylinders in which heated wax globules float with grandeur can be found in myriad shapes and sizes. \$9.99 and up. **Spencer's, Target, J.C. Penney, lavalamp.com.**



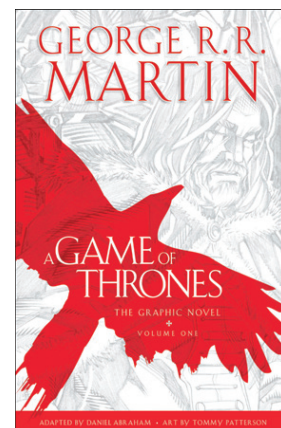
View-Master Virtual Reality Starter Pack

View-Master has come into the 21st century with this simple-to-use kit, which includes the viewer, an app you download onto your smart phone (iOS or Android), and one of several Experience discs. Slip your smart phone into the viewer, focus and click on the experience disc, and the app in the phone transports you into 360-degree, 3-D worlds ranging from the solar system to an African Safari. \$29.97, **Kmart, Target, Amazon.**



Trapped Toledo

Looking to gift festive co-workers or induce feuding family members to work together? Trapped Toledo is the city's two-year-old escape room, in which 12 people have 60 minutes to puzzle their way out of one of several locked mystery rooms. Current offerings are Infected: Cabin Fever, Mutiny, and The Trouble with Toys. It's a beat-the-clock experience that requires teamwork as well as cunning. \$13-\$22 per person, depending on the day of the week. **trappedtoledo.com.**



Graphic novels

Combine the eye-popping art comic fanboys love with the literary panache bibliophiles demand. You'll find them in nearly every genre, from *The Hobbit* and *A Game of Thrones* to *Watchmen*, *The Walking Dead*, *Batman Arkham Asylum* and the Pulitzer Prize-winning Holocaust tale *Maus*. Comics aren't just kids' stuff anymore. \$9.99 and up. **Amazon, Barnes & Nobles**, and other booksellers.

* Prices and availability subject to change.