



HOLIDAY COUNTDOWN

WHAT TO BUY

INEXPENSIVE GIFTS



Need something distinctive to round out space under the Christmas tree, or an idea for the Secret Santa exchange at your workplace? Try these under-\$25 suggestions for gifts that can suit a variety of tastes.

— David Patch
Blade Staff Writer

◀ **The Wake-Up Cup** — by Fred & Friends. Face on mug “wakes up,” thanks to heat-sensitive printing, when filled with coffee, tea, cocoa, or other hot beverage. **\$16.95** at [amazon.com](#), [Home & Kitchen](#), and the [Barnes & Noble](#) at [Fallen Timbers](#).



▲ Brilliant colors for winter comfort grace the **Confetti Scarf**, **\$20** at [Bowling Green Hats and Apparel](#).



▲ **Digital Tire-Pressure Gauge** — Checking and maintaining proper tire pressure saves gasoline and can prevent highway breakdowns. Now it's a breeze with digital gauges by **Slime**, also a maker of flat-tire repair material. Basic models start at **\$8.95**, while a version with flexible hose costs **\$19.95** at [Advance Auto Parts](#), with several stores in and around Toledo.



▲ **The Singing Bird Clock** — For the person on your gift list with a backyard bird feeder. Plays a different bird's song for each of 12 hours. A light sensor deactivates the bird songs when the room is dark. Requires three AA batteries. **\$14.95** at [The Andersons General Store](#).



▲ **The Jar of Nothing** — For the person who tells you, “Oh, you really don't need to get me anything.” Suitable for storing paper clips, jelly beans, sugar packets — or nothing at all. **\$16.95** at [American Greetings](#), [Westfield Franklin Park](#).



▲ **Coffee Time Yahtzee** — A novelty version of the classic game. Coffee break-themed dice and score pad come inside a coffee cup. Coffee Time Games also available for **Scrabble** and **Scattergories**. **\$9.95** at [Barnes & Noble](#).



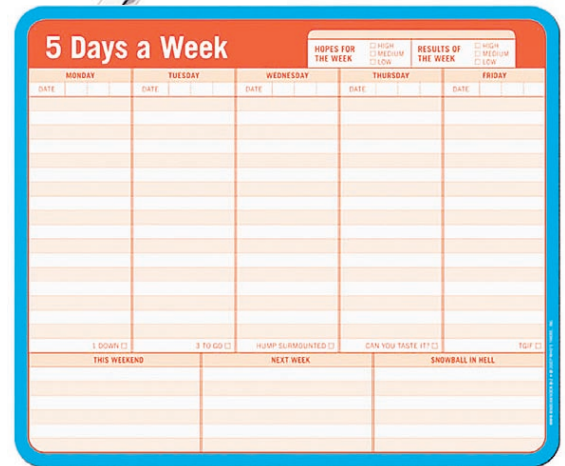
◀ **Portable Electronic Key Finder** — Know someone whose last 10 minutes before leaving the house is a frantic search for lost keys? This device from [The Sharper Image](#) sounds a signal when triggered from as far away as 45 feet. Includes alarms for two key rings and a table-top cradle to keep the trigger from falling into the couch cushions. **\$19.99** at [Bed, Bath & Beyond](#).



▲ **The Sportula** — Now your favorite sports fan who also likes to spend some time at the grill can combine those two passions. Heavy-duty spatulas with cut-out team logos or other designs, suitable for “impressing” hamburgers. **\$24.95** at [Sportula kiosk](#), [Westfield Franklin Park](#), Toledo.



▲ It's a trip around the world of tea: **WinterBerry Cream Black Tea**, **Orange Blossom Oolong**, **Long Island Strawberry Green**, and **Pomegranate Wild Peony** are featured in the **\$22.95 Holiday Sampler Tin** from [Elaine's Tea Shoppe: Home of Wild Orchid Teas](#).



▲ Keep your whole week at your fingertips right where your fingertips often are found with the **Weekly Calendar Mousepad**, which along with space for weekend and future plans, even has a space for tasks you think have very little chance of getting done anytime soon. **\$9.95** at [Pier 1 Imports](#).