



HOLIDAY COUNTDOWN

IN THE KITCHEN

If a friend or family member is a cook, it's easy to find a gift. There are so many kitchen gadgets out there that no one can truly be said to have them all. The trick lies in knowing what they want the most. Here is our guide to 10 kitchen gadget ideas that are helpful, unusual, and just plain fun.

— Daniel Neman
BLADE STAFF WRITER



Everybody knows that waffles are fun. But they can be even more fun for young people of all ages when they are in the unmistakable shape of Mickey Mouse. **The Mickey Mouse Waffle Maker** produces perfect waffles in the shape of that smiling, big-eared face. It's non-stick, too, for easy cleaning. **\$39.99 at The Andersons**



You don't even have to like milkshakes or mixed drinks to want the commercial-quality **Waring Retro Green Milkshake and Drink Mixer**. The retro-styled mixer looks cool enough on its own; milkshakes and drinks are just an added bonus. At **Williams-Sonoma** for **\$169.95**



The tea-lover in your family will be thrilled to receive a handsome 30-ounce **Musée de The** glass teapot with its own glass infuser, from **Teavana**. For an even nicer treat, include a matching Aurora glass stand to keep the tea warm — it uses candle power — for an additional **\$19.95**

Opening cans the usual way leaves dangerous, sharp edges. But the battery-operated **Hands-Free Automatic Tornado Can Opener** promises to open cans safely and without leaving sharp edges, all at the touch of a button. Best of all, it's "as seen on TV!" **\$19.99, from Bed, Bath & Beyond**



One secret to cooking is to assure everything is cut to the same size. One easy and foolproof way to do that is with a **Mandoline**, such as the one made by **KitchenAid**. **The Restaurant Store** in Maumee has them for **\$45**

Forget variety — spice is the spice of life. As in this handsome **21-Piece Spice Rack** for **\$47.99**. It's made by Martha Stewart, so you know the taste is impeccable, and it comes with 20 different spices, including cinnamon, coriander, thyme, marjoram, ginger, and more. It rotates too, so it can fit under a kitchen cabinet. **Macy's \$47.99**



Your friends will thank you for getting them two gifts in one. The **West Bend Reversible Grill/Griddle** will give them the best of both worlds, an indoor grill and an indoor griddle. And it can even be used as a hot plate to serve warmed appetizers. It's dishwasher safe, too. **Dillard's** has it for **\$69.99**



Trust the Paula Brown Shop to have some of the most intriguing gifts, such as **Culinary Porcelain** by **Revol**. It looks like slate, but you can cook on it (at temperatures up to 572°), serve on it, and even write on it with chalk. It's microwavable, dishwasher-safe, it does not scratch, and it's nonporous. **\$25.99-\$84.99**, depending on size.



Why not go with a classic? Everybody's favorite **George Foreman Grill** is available in two sizes. The grills are convenient, easy to use, and even healthful, because the fat drains right out of the meat. **Sears. \$39.99 - \$99.99**



If you saw the Cake Boss on his recent show in town, or even if you didn't, you might want to pick up the **Cake Boss Kitchen Torch**. You can use it to give creme brulée its brulée or to lightly brown a meringue. And it is so much daintier than a regular blowtorch. **Elder-Beerman. \$42**

* Prices and availability subject to change