

2008 Holiday Buyer's Guide

Just Say "No" to Gift Cards or Fruit Baskets this Time Around



There aren't many superstores sandwiched between Best Buy and Barnes & Noble that cater directly to gear enthusiasts. In order to find a gift for the gear head in the family, it's going to take a little time and creativity. This year, we've researched a variety of websites with the sole purpose of finding gears. Here are just a few of your options in 2008:

www.giftsforengineers.com

This multipurpose website offers a plethora of gear-related goodies like gear-themed clocks, necklaces, books and even a box of mechanical engineering chocolates featuring chocolate gears, nuts, bolts and T-squares. There are also great novelty items including an engineering rubber ducky that sports a hard hat, an orange safety vest and a roll of blueprints under his wing.

www.cyberoptix.com

Nothing says "I have no idea what to get you" like the gift of a neck tie. But it doesn't have to be like this. The Cyberoptix Tie Lab offers up the slogan, "TIES THAT DON'T SUCK!" The Victorian gear design boasts a variety of colors in both silk as well as a narrow microfiber, a wonderful accessory for dress-up Mondays at the office.

www.geeky-gadgets.com

This website specifically caters to the inner geek in all of us by highlighting the latest and greatest gadgets, gizmos and consumer electronics on the market. From gear-related watches and desk clocks to information on how to make your own gadgets, this is the place for the wanna-be engineer in the family that takes it all apart, but has no clue how to put it back together.

www.steeplanet.com

Founded in Oregon, Steep Planet features selected products with the active, outdoor lifestyle in mind. Mountain sports, cycling, fitness and meditation are just a few of the activities highlighted on the website. The sterling silver gear burst earrings are a perfect fit for readers that fondly appreciate fashion as well as the great outdoors.

www.fatbraintoy.com

The future manufacturer in the family can start learning the craft with a variety of games, puzzles, magnets and play sets that feature gears. Of special interest are the Make-a-Clock kits that allow kids to see working gears in motion and the Techno Gears Marble Mania Extreme, a motorized obstacle course they can construct using plastic gears.

www.amazon.com

If knowledge is power, then the right book is exactly what the gear enthusiast needs. Amazon offers many titles such as *Pulleys and Gears (Simple Machines)*, *Handbook of Machining with Grinding Wheels* and *Precision Manufacturing*. There are also plenty of titles available on lean manufacturing, supply chain management and the global economy.

www.learningresources.com

Another great option for kids is this educational toy company that offers gear workstations, construction sets and activity books. Most of the sets are motorized, allowing children to create a variety of unique mechanical designs that focus on science and technology.

www.sme.org

Fresh off our Best Supporting Gears Addendum, this list of short films feature gears in a more instructional setting. Those new to the industry would benefit from a copy of several titles including *Gears and Gear Manufacturing*, *Basics of Grinding, Milling and Machining*, *Center Basics*, *Threading Basics* and *Turning and Lathe Basics*, all available on DVD through the Society of Manufacturing Engineers.

www.winzelergear.com

Interested in being a little more creative this holiday season? Perhaps browsing the Winzeler Gear Art Gallery online will inspire your own personal projects featuring gears. Whether your interests lie in fashion, art, photography or architecture, a gift that you take some time and effort to create is better than anything you can find in a store.

www.geartechology.com

At the end of the day, the best gift might just be the magazine in your hand. Wrap it up, tie a bow around it and give the gift of *Gear Technology*. Sure, it's a shameless plug, but we left just enough room at the bottom of the page for some gratuitous self-promotion.

In conclusion, we'd very much like to put an end to the holiday parties where family and friends receive gift cards, fruit baskets or "your-name-here" key chains. Please feel free to join us in our struggle. If you have any gear-related gift ideas, send them to publisher@geartechology.com, and once again, happy holidays.