

Ever wondered how you coped without a motorised ice-cream cone or an ear-dryer?

THE MOST

EVER been plagued by damp ears after taking a shower? Or worn yourself out eating an ice cream? Well, help is at hand with the first ever battery-powered ear-dryer and motorised ice-cream cone. They are certainly up there with the most pointless inventions in the world. Here, LIZ HOLLIS gives a rundown of the latest mustn't-have gadgets that you can easily live without.



MOTORISED ICE-CREAM CONE

FOR those too idle to twist their wrist, just pop your cone inside this battery-operated turning cone and it will do all the work. You can even put it in the dishwasher, because washing up would be far too much trouble.

■ £4.99, www.amazon.co.uk



CAT NAPKIN CHAIN

'DRIPS of soup and sauce are a thing of the past' – and so is style if you wear this gadget. Tiny grippers shaped like cats hold the napkin 'exactly where you need it'. Save your tenner and do what generations have done before – tuck it into the neck of your jumper or shirt.

■ £9.99, www.scottsofstow.co.uk

DRYEAR EAR DRYER

A MACHINE to dry your ears after you've had a bath or been for a swim. Apparently, 'drying your ears has never been simpler or more effective'. Or, at £69, more expensive. The battery-operated device slots into the ear canal and blows hot air. Just to add to the lunacy, the instructions advise you to dry your ears with a towel first!

■ £69, www.dryear.co.uk



AVOCADO SAVER

WHAT keeps you awake at night? Worries about your job in these credit crunch times, or how to stop your avocados wobbling over and turning brown in the fridge? Well, if it's the latter, you can rest easy because this patented gizmo keeps the lonesome leftover half comfortable in its 'adjustable strap' until you're ready to eat it next day. The ultimate gadget that you didn't even know you needed.

■ £2.73, www.lakeland.co.uk



PIZZA FORK

THIS 'effortless way to eat pizza' has been slashed from its original price of £4.99 down to £1.49 – highlighting just how 'must-have' it isn't! A device to help you cut through crust and topping with ease. Funny enough, those historical implements, the knife and fork, do much the same thing.

■ £1.49, www.home-shopping.24studio.co.uk



FISH TRAINING KIT

FOR the sad, lonely and eternally bored, at last here is a gadget to help you teach your goldfish to perform tricks. The trouble is you need friends to show off the tricks to and if you own this, you probably don't have any.

■ £19.99, www.lazyboneuk.com

Basketball

The NEW Mitsubishi Colt ClearTec



£9,299*

A FULL SIZE SUPER MINI WITH 'AUTO STOP & GO' ENGINE TECHNOLOGY

The system automatically stops and restarts the engine when the vehicle is stationary – such as at traffic lights or in a traffic jam.

Key specification includes:

- Cruise control
- Steering wheel mounted audio controls
- 15" alloy wheels
- Emergency stop signal system
- iPod connection
- Air conditioning
- CO₂ emissions 119g/km



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FOR A BROCHURE TEXT **CLEARTEC** TO 84880
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*List price shown includes VAT (at 15%), excludes VED and First Registration Fee. †For full terms and conditions visit www.mitsubishi.co.uk

Colt ClearTec 1.3 CZ2 fuel consumption in mpg (lts/100km): Urban 44.8 (6.3), Extra Urban 65.7 (4.3), Combined 56.5 (5.0). CO₂ Emissions 119 g/km.

USELESS INVENTIONS EVER



DOGGLES

THESE canine sunglasses are apparently the latest in dog wear, providing 100 per cent UV protection. All Doggles have anti-fog lenses and no gaps to let in stray light, dirt or insects (phev! Wouldn't want Fido filling them with soil when he's digging a hole, or getting fogged up as he chases a rabbit!).

■ £19.95, www.firebox.com



PHONE FINGERS

NO, YOU'RE not seeing things. These really are finger sleeves to help keep your precious touch-screen phone and iPod grease-free. A cheaper alternative is perhaps, er, washing your hands. At first, some customers thought they were a joke. Only truly useful for those with obsessive compulsive disorder.

■ £9.99 (includes worldwide shipping), www.phonefingers.com



THE LOO READ

THIS ridiculous gadget is supposed to be 'perfect for reading papers in the loo'. Available in broadsheet or tabloid versions, it seems you can also use it to 'do puzzles or apply your make-up'. It 'provides a platform for almost anything'.

■ £59.99, www.lazyboneuk.com



SHOWER FOOT-REST

IF YOU have a tenner to fritter, then this is for you. This may have sold pre-recession, but surely a suction cup shower gadget to 'assist your balance while shaving' your legs is excessive now. How about putting your foot on the side of the bath?

■ £10, www.jojomamanbebe.co.uk

GLOVE AND BOOT DRYER

ANOTHER piece of utter clutter, this one has a built-in fan to circulate air around your wet gloves and boots. Apparently, this 'indispensable tool' keeps your gloves dry in the winter and odour-free during the summer. Put them on the radiator instead!

■ £14.95, www.gizoo.co.uk



SLANKET

IT'S A fleece blanket with arms, designed so you can stay warm while flicking the remote. The Slanket is apparently 'soft, light and ludicrously snuggly' (ahem, so are most blankets) and, yippee, it's 100 per cent polyester. You can keep your entire body covered in probably the most unalluring garment ever invented.

■ £34.95, www.firebox.com

LASER-GUIDED SCISSORS

CUTTING-EDGE technology said to help you snip in a perfect straight line. Great in theory, but the laser is attached to the scissors so when your hand shakes, so does the light.

■ £12.67, www.inkino.co.uk



THUMBTHING

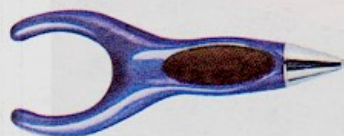
BILLED as 'a brilliant new invention for reading books', it's a device that you clip over your thumb so you can read with just one hand — and eat or hopefully do something more productive with the other.

■ £8.76 for pack of four, www.thumbthing.com

PET MASSAGER

IS YOUR guinea pig in need of some 'me-time'? Is your labrador frazzled after a demanding day? Soothe stressed pets with this massager which 'works to melt away tensions and relieve sore muscles and joints that come with a full day's play or advanced age'.

■ £4.97, www.maplin.co.uk



PENAGAIN

FOR the terminally lazy who are too exhausted to bother holding their pen. You just slip your finger between the prongs and into the groove and writing uses even less calories. Add an elastic band and it doubles as a catapult for disgruntled office workers.

■ FROM £6.95, www.thepenzone.co.uk



PORTABLE ICE-CREAM BALL

'WOULDN'T it be great if you could make delicious homemade ice-cream quickly, easily and without electricity — and play ball while doing it?' says the sales blurb. Fill with ice, double cream and salt, then play ball for 20 minutes and you have a pint of ice-cream — and you've had fun. But how do you track down ice and fresh cream when you're camping or at the beach?

■ £24.95, www.firebox.com



SHAPE-UP DUMBBELL ALARM CLOCK

THIS combines two of life's least pleasant experiences: an early morning alarm and exercise. It's an alarm clock inside a 10kg dumbbell — and you can turn it off only with 30 upward swings. 'Get your exercise out of the way before breakfast' — or just scream and hide under the covers.

■ £19.95, www.gizoo.co.uk