

The Goods

BY RANDY HARWARD



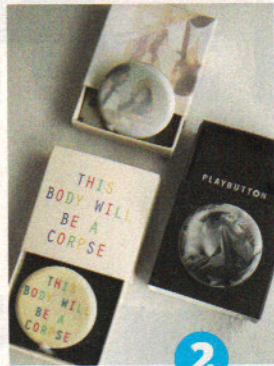
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1) Special Agents
Skullcandy Agent Headphones (\$38-60)
www.skullcandy.com

All self-respecting musichounds need a solid pair of ear cans, and most of them know Skullcandy headphones are the *absolute shit*, with cozy leather-touch over-ear pillows, nylon-braided cables and killer art. As with Skullcandy's other popular models Hesh and Skull-Crushers, Agents come in a variety of looks advertising favorite sports teams plus skate and surf designs, like the Jim Phillips Roskopp and Terje Haakonsen Signature.

2) Pinback Tunes
PlayButton MP3 Player (\$20-25)
www.playbutton.com

Imagine how cool it would've been if, back in high school, you could've plugged headphones on your jacket and jammed out? PlayButton makes this a reality with entire albums on a single pinback button. Simply charge it via USB, stick it on and jack in. Buttons include Mount Eerie, Zs, Bow Ribbons and Florence + the Machine. Alas, no Crüe.



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3) No Chaser
Tequila Avión Silver (\$40)
www.tequilaavion.com

Unlike some tequilas, which rampage through the gut-works, this goes down smooth. Ascribe the clean, crisp taste to the distillation and filtration processes used in making 80-proof Tequila Avión. Small batches, stainless steel pots and copper coils combine to zap sulfur particles and harsh aromas, and TA's proprietary "ultra slow filtration" eliminates trace particulate matter. It takes ten times as long as traditional filtration, but hey—it's worth it. Totally buzzed right now.

4) Warm Fuzzies
Mens' Black Wolf Hood (\$139)
www.spirithoods.com

SpiritHoods acrylic faux fur hoods claim to carry



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the essence of the creature they resemble—be they bunnies, foxes or bears. Of our Black Wolf Hood, SH sez, "They howl at the moon and are great communicators with a strong appreciation of music." There's more about chaos, lunar influences and *the shadow within*. All told, SpiritHoods are ridiculously comfortable and even fit a beer in each of the paw pockets. Pretty *and* practical.

5) Strange Bot
Emily the Strange Mimobot Flash Drive (\$20-50)
www.mimoco.com

Snarky goth girls now store up to 16GB of digital media! Mimoco's line of licensed flash drive figures has mushroomed and now includes Rob Reger's ad mascot/comic character in two editions: the standard People Are Strange and Batman-esque "Save Yourself." Better yet, they come pre-loaded with original content—in Emily's case, the *Piece of Mind* e-book. Mimoco also offers adorable Tokidoki figures, Aztec gods, and of course the perennial geek-favorite, *Star Wars* characters.

The Goods: Guitarded

Didn't aluminum guitars go out in the eighties when they had those ludicrous, hole-ridden Swiss-cheese things? Nope. Floridian guitar craftsman Kevin Burkett uses T6061 aluminum to make the necks and bods on his instruments and they play and sound like heaven. We tested the prototype for the EGC 500 (\$2200, ElectricalGuitarCompany.com), one of Burkett's wood-aluminum hybrid guitars, and this heavy beast is beyond our wettest dreams. With neck

and bridge humbuckers, a three-way switch, volume and tone knobs and a thin (.66 inch) but accommodating neck, it can handle anything from clean jazz to Melvins' heavy-duty riffage (Buzzo is an avid endorsee).

We plugged it into a **Pigtronix Aria "Disnortion"** pedal (\$150, Pigtronix.com) and it became a fuzzy stoner rock beast. Later we paired the pedal with a Les Paul and an Eastwood Airline (through a Fender Performer amp) and found love again. The Aria ran the rock gamut from jangly Tom Petty/Mike Campbell light

distortion to a fat Popa Chubby blues tone, sweet semi-clean sustained Steely Dan licks, creamy Black Crowes chords and hairy Fu Manchu riffs. **Hot damn.**

