

Better Homes Gardens®

**NEW
APPS**
FOR BUSY MOMS
p.59

MAY 2015
BHG.COM

easy style

**FREE
DOWNLOAD**
DIY Garden
Wall p.100

**ROOMS FOR
OUTDOOR
LIVING**

p.98

**TASTES OF
SUMMER**
22 NEW
RECIPES

**COOL
COLOR**
BRING ON
THE BLUES

p.46

Display Until May 19, 2015





state of the SMART

**Power up the fun
and dial back the
hassle.** We've got
you covered with 28
gadgets, apps, and
cool ideas to make
your busy life better.

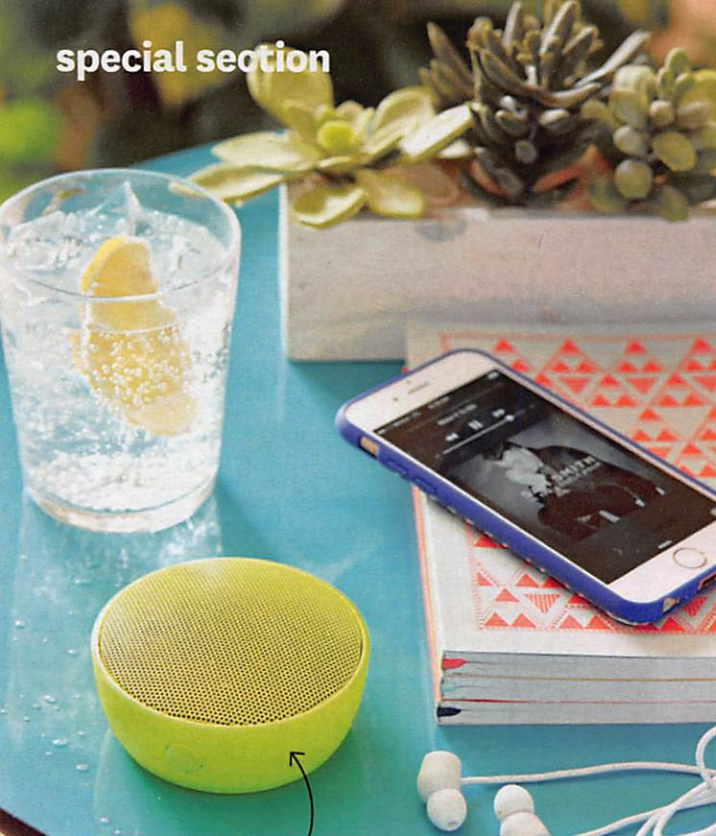


POWER OF THE PURSE

Stow and go, go, go. The MightyPurse clutch has a battery with enough juice to fully charge any mobile device.

\$105; handbag-butler.com

BY ERIN QUINLAN
PHOTOS BLAINE MOATS
STYLING LINDSAY BERGER



ace of bass

Nokia's pucklike MD-12 portable wireless speaker is tiny, not tinny, thanks to a compact vibrating actuator that boosts low frequencies when the speaker is placed on hard surfaces. A 15-hour rechargeable battery ensures the beat goes on. Available in orange, green, yellow, white, \$49.99; microsoftstore.com



LEG UP

Quit craning your neck to watch cat GIFs! The Kenu Stance smartphone tripod contorts so you don't have to, posing your phone at a comfy viewing angle with ball-and-pivot joints.

Available for iPhones and Android/Windows phones, \$29.95; kenu.com



IN CHARGE

We asked Liz Gumbinner and Kristen Chase, the cool moms at Cool Mom Tech (coolmomtech.com), what they'd tell their BFF to get. The Jackery Giant+ portable charger: "You'll never be caught with a dead phone or tablet again." It's powerful enough to juice two devices—at once!

Available in black, gold, orange, silver, \$39.95; jackery.com



Stealth couponing: When **SNAP** rebates matching your purchases total \$20, you get a check.

Free for iOS, Android; groupon.com



No-rez restaurants are feasible with **NOWAIT**. Text your name to the list; show up when your table is ready.

Free for iPhone, Android; nowaitapp.com/dining



A single cart for all your digital shopping? You're not dreaming: **KEEP** will even track down lost packages.

Free for iOS, Android; keep.com



We love video editing and hosting app **VEEEMOTION** for its hip effects and tight privacy controls.

Free for iOS, Android; veeemotion.com



that's a wrap

"Cord Tacos are impossibly adorable," tech stylist Carley Knobloch says. "And anything that organizes my cables and looks like food? I'm in."

\$29 for five; thisisground.com



TECHSPERT OPINION

JOHANNA TORRES

The editor in chief of website **MamásLatinas** knows that technology and QT are not mutually exclusive. "Some people tell parents to ditch the devices, but let's get real," she says. "I have three kids ages 20, 18, and 12. Technology is my saving grace!" Here's what she recommends.

A SCHEDULE EVERYONE CAN SEE

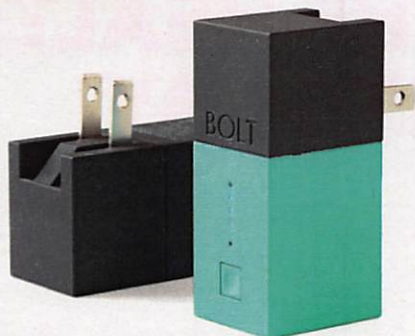
"The kids and I share a Google calendar for important family dates such as school concerts and upcoming vacations. I integrate it with my work calendar through a free app called **Sunrise** (calendar.sunrise.am)."

A WAY TO WORK TOGETHER

"My daughter is a college freshman living away from home for the first time. She uses **Dropbox** (dropbox.com) to share essays and ask for feedback on her papers. I've even helped her update her résumé. I love that I can still be there for her."

A FUN DISTRACTION

"My youngest and I enjoy challenging each other by playing games on our phones. Our favorite is **Trivia Crack** (triviackrack.com), allowing us to virtually connect here and there as we take turns testing our knowledge about different topics. It's smart and silly enough that everyone can get into it."



SHAMELESS PLUG

If you panic when your backup charger needs recharging, try the FluxMob Bolt. This USB-compatible battery pack plugs into a standard wall outlet for resuscitation; no keeping track of yet another cable. Phew!

Available in six colors, \$59.99; fluxmob.com



TECHSPERT OPINION

CARLEY KNOBLOCH

The digital stylist and founder of Carleyk.com doesn't want virtual clutter to take the fun out of a tech-tastic life. Here are her favorite tips for tackling spring cleaning 2.0.

PHOTO GLUT

"If you've got photos scattered on Flickr, Facebook, and various hard drives, try an aggregator like [ThisLife \(thislife.com\)](http://ThisLife.thislife.com). It takes your memories from multiple sources and organizes them in one timeline. It's also good to back them up in more than one place, like an external hard drive or a cloud service like [SmugMug \(smugmug.com\)](http://SmugMug.smugmug.com). Finally, take your photos out of the digital shoebox and print a few!"

E-MAIL OVERLOAD

"Triage a bloated inbox by dragging e-mails older than four weeks into an 'archive' folder. You'll feel like you've lost 10 pounds. For new mail maintenance, fire up e-mail manager [Mailbox \(mailboxapp.com\)](http://Mailbox.mailboxapp.com). There is no faster way to archive or delete. Just swipe, swipe, swipe."

PASSWORD PLETHORA

"Get yourself a password manager. I use [1Password \(agilebits.com\)](http://1Password.agilebits.com). It's straightforward software, so you don't have to store your passwords online."



A square deal

Easy and affordable don't have to mean sacrificing quality. PrintStudio's cute, not-so-little squares (they're 4x4 inches) are popular because they're printable right from an app on your phone, filled with archival-quality goodness, and just \$12 for a set of 24 (\$16 for double-sided)! The laid-back outfit also offers a full range of print products. printstud.io

PHOTO FINISH

Packing for your annual family picnic? Slip the Polaroid Zip between the snacks and sunscreen. This wireless mini printer syncs with your smartphone to produce wallet-size snaps on the spot—proof that Grandma Joan really did win the egg-and-spoon race.

Also available in white, \$129.99 for iOS, Android; polaroid.com



STAY IN THE KNOW

Check out our new innovation blog and get more great tips from these tech-savvy experts. BHG.com/SmartBlog



GOOD VIBRATIONS

This cocktail ring takes calls! When selected contacts text or phone your cell, the Bluetooth-connected Ringly gently vibrates. On date night, you'll know if the babysitter needs you without checking a screen—or lifting a finger.

Available in Black Onyx, Pink Sapphire, Emerald, and Rainbow Moonstone in 18K matte gold-plated setting, from \$195 for iOS, Android; ringly.com



The object of TWODOTS is to connect dots into squares—and kill time. With charming graphics and 235 levels, check and check.

Free for iOS, Android; weplaydots.com

Maybe it's the magic number because you can't stop playing THREES. A lovely, mathy matching game.

\$1.99 for iOS, Android, Amazon; asherv.com/threes

USE #41:

Strike out major league stains.

Soak stained baseball uniforms in OxiClean[®] before washing. For just pennies, you'll bat a thousand against dirt, clay and other tough messes.



The Official Stain Remover of the Babe Ruth League.



101 uses.
101 ways to save.

Visit us at YouTube.com/OxiClean

©2015 Church & Dwight Co., Inc.

special section



WATCH YOUR STEPS

What will they think of next? Withings Activité Pop is a new fitness tracker that also has the novel feature of telling time. It does everything the others do—tracks steps, strokes, sleep—while looking like nothing more than a stylish timepiece. It runs for eight months on a watch battery, so you'll always be ready for a workout.

Available in Bright Azure, Shark Grey, and Wild Sand, \$149.95 for iOS, Android; withings.com

CREATIVE OUTLETS

Score two for home safety: The Brio Safe wall socket (available in May) supplies current when it senses a plug, not your kid's pinkie. Later this year, the Brio Smart will add à la carte detectors for smoke, floodwater, and carbon monoxide, sounding an alarm and setting off mobile alerts in case of trouble.

Safe, \$49 (\$99–\$186 with Smart add-ons); brighthouse.com



SHINY, HAPPY PICTURES

Using your iPhone camera at night doesn't have to be a shot in the dark. The LED Expose Smart flash brightens pics and videos with up to 130 lumens in burst, strobe, or continuous mode. An app lets you tweak white balance and brightness to keep subjects from squinting.

Available in black, white, \$59.95 for iPhone; knog.com.au

on the page

Here's a novel idea: Instead of stealing your kid's Fire to read her copy of *Gabi, a Girl in Pieces*, try Amazon's Family Library feature. Two adults can sync accounts with up to four children to swap e-books, audiobooks, games, and apps among a suite of supported devices.

Free; for more info, go to amazon.com/help and search "Family Library" in the lower search bar. ■

