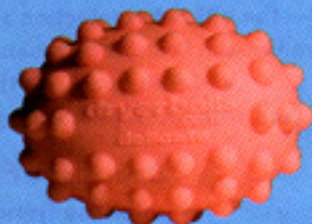


THE FUTURE OF HOMEMAKING

Thousands of products ranging from the practical (bread knife) to the silly (shower squeegee) to the absurdly expensive (a \$4,200 espresso machine) are featured this week at the 2005 International Home & Housewares Show in Chicago. Some highlights:

AUDIOSLAVE

Furniture has become part of a home entertainment system before, but not with such style. The LumiSource Boom Chair has built-in speakers and connects directly to your sound source. "Vibration mode" lets you feel the music. \$240; due this spring.



THIS ISN'T A CHEW TOY

Nellie's Dryerballs separate clothes as they tumble, so they dry faster and with fewer wrinkles. \$20 for a set of two, choice of regular or delicate; fall.

PULP FRICTION

Pulverize, liquefy and otherwise manipulate a wide range of food and drink with the Salton Kitchen Trio. The three-in-one appliance serves as juicer, blender and grinder, depending on the attachment. \$50; August.



TEA TIME

The IngenuTea offers a tidy way to brew and serve loose-leaf tea. Rest the teapot on the rim of your mug, and filtered tea pours in through a valve. It's microwave safe—just don't nuke the leaves. \$15 or \$19; adagio.com.



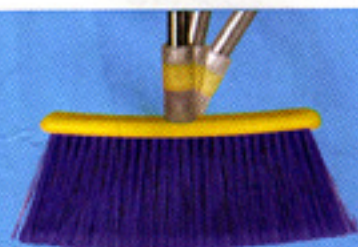
HOVERCRAFT

Traditionally, canister-style vacuum cleaners have been, well, a drag. But the Airider is designed to push itself 1/8 in. off the floor. You'll barely notice it floating behind you while you're sucking cat hair out of your carpet. \$399; May; airider.co.uk.



A CLEAN SWEEP

The Flex Neck Broom is made of lightweight aluminum with a rubber piece that lets you bend the head at various angles. \$16; casabella.com.



SITTIN' PRETTY?

Polyresin toilet seats from ATH Import dress up the commode with butterflies, fish and other decorative 3-D scenes. It's your money. \$60; May.



SIDWAYS MADE SIMPLE

Wish you had easier access to your pinot? Fit the Icon Ratchet Action Corkscrew from Prodyne over the top of a wine bottle and twist. Once the corkscrew's "worm" (spiral) is fully engaged, two quick and easy cranks of the lever pop the cork right out. \$20; spring.



GRAND OPENING

The DiscGo silicone trivet from Chef'n helps open jars too. A magnet pins it to the fridge. \$7.99 or \$9.99; April. —By Maryanne Murray Buechner



OTHER HOME-SHOW HELPERS

Inside a Rainbow Color Changing Candle from AEI are a lithium battery, a light sensor and colored bulbs; as the wick burns, a fiber-optic filament triggers changes in hue • The Ozonator uses ozone to kill germs inside your fridge and help keep food fresh • Sanyo's new DirtHunter SC-H2000 vacuum cleaner features "edge grabbers"—front-end shutters that tackle dirt trapped along baseboards