

# Talk it up

Cool add-ons to carry, charge, and cover your cell phone

Whether you have a brand-new Droid or you're still talking on your old Razr, there are lots of extras you can buy to make it more usable and stylish. We scouted out the latest phone gear at this year's Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas and had our electronics experts look them over. (We didn't test the products, though.) Be on the lookout for new software that lets parents monitor kids' talking and texting, especially behind the wheel, from Taser (yes, the company that makes the stun gun). There's also a program called ZoomSafer that senses when someone is texting and driving and disables the phone's keyboard. And watch for chargers that work with other gadgets.



## portable party

**VESTALIFE LADYBUG II IPHONE SPEAKER DOCK, \$100**

This cute portable speaker dock can really crank out tunes with its built-in subwoofer and digital amp. And when plugged into an outlet it charges your iPhone (2G, 3G, and 3Gs) or iPod at the same time. You can plug it into an outlet or use batteries (4 AAs).

**Where to get it** Vesta-Shop.com

## touchy-feely

**BELKIN GRIP ERGO, \$30**

Car keys in one hand, hot latte in the other, and you're juggling your iPhone, too? Make it more doable with this clutchable case that wraps a snug layer of silicone around your phone. Contoured ridges make it easy to grip. It comes in fun colors like Caviar, Chili Pepper, and Indigo (shown).

**Where to get it** Belkin.com



## be alarmed

**ZOMM WIRELESS CELL-PHONE LEASH, \$80**

How many times have you had to call your cell phone because you couldn't find it? Zomm's wireless leash was invented by a mother who named it for her children and herself (Zachry, Olivia, Madison, Mom). If you walk too far away from your phone, it sounds an alarm. The leash fits on your key ring and works via Bluetooth. You can take calls, use the speaker phone, or press the panic alarm for emergency assistance anywhere in the world.

**Where to get it** Zomm.com



## all charged up

**POWERMAT PORTABLE 2X, \$99**

This portable mat charges two devices—your smart phone and another one—at the same time, whenever, wherever. You charge the mat, and it folds up so you can use it on the go. No need to search for an outlet!

**Where to get it** Powermat.com

## run with it

**PHUBBY SPORT WRIST CUBBY, \$13**

Prevent a phumble (a phone fumble) with this wearable wrist cubby. The transparent mesh fabric lets you see and work the phone, and a second pocket can hold credit cards, cash, or keys. It comes in various sizes, colors, and patterns.

**Where to get it** Phubby.com



## stick around

**MOBIVALET SMART-PHONE HOLDER, \$25 to \$40**

No more flying phones. With this travel case your phone stays put, even if you brake suddenly. Stick the adhesive backing to your vehicle's console (or anyplace you choose) and stow your phone while you drive. Sloped sides allow access for the charging cord. Of course, we don't recommend chatting in the car, but at least you'll be able to find your phone when you get to where you're going. One bumper: All that stickum on your console.

**Where to get it** MobiValet.com



## road tripper

**CALLPOD FUELTANK DUO, \$70**

A dead cell-phone battery can ruin your road trip, so you might want to pack a portable charging device. This one is lightweight (8 ounces), and its rechargeable lithium-ion battery charges two devices at once and is supposed to hold enough juice for seven standard mobile-device charges. (Indicator lights tell you how much is left in the tank.) It comes with adapters that make it compatible with more than 3,000 devices.

**Where to get it** Callpod.com

WEDNELL WEBBER; PROP STYLING: JEFFSTYLES.COM

BELKIN, ZOMM, PHUBBY AND CASE-MATE; WENDELL WEBBER; PROP STYLING: JEFFSTYLES.COM



## get crafty

**I MAKE MY CASE CUSTOM CELL-PHONE CASE, \$35 and up**

Design your own cell-phone case at the cleverly named I Make My Case Web site of manufacturer Case-mate. Choose from a variety of themes, colors, and patterns or if you'd prefer, go with a remixed work from a professional artist. Cases fit the iPhone 3G or 3Gs, iPod Touch 2G, and BlackBerry Bold 9700 or BlackBerry Curve 8520. You start with a blank canvas that represents the back of your phone and then use your mouse to click and drag your design options onto the surface. Case-mate's 3D printing process embeds inks directly into the case so that your design won't get scratched or fade. It's not the most heavy-duty case, but it's guaranteed to be one of a kind.

**Where to get it** Case-mate.com