

HOME & DECOR

Taming the technology beast

TIPS ON MERGING HI-TECH WITH HIGH STYLE

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SPECIAL TO SUN SENTINEL

Technology plays a key role in our lives, but it doesn't have to detract from our décor. We've gathered a few unique products, expert tips and DIY ideas for helping you to merge hi-tech with high style.

Must-see TV

Plantation Interior Designer Eloise Kubli of Collective Construction & Design suggests making the wall on which your large flat screen television hangs a focal point by painting it a different hue from the other walls or adding texture, either from a decorative faux-finish or dimensional element like stacked stone.

Elizabeth Glenn, an instructor at the Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale, suggests taking advantage of a blank TV screen when it's not in use by running a slide show of family photos or other favorite scenes.

For those who prefer a variation from the usual black frame and black stand, some flat screens now feature silver trim to create a more unique look.

Wayward wires

Elizabeth Glenn suggests a DIY idea for wires you'd like to disguise. Electrical tape is sold in a variety of hues and you just might find the right tone for wrapping your wires and allowing them to blend subtly against the wall.

If your power strips resemble wild snake pits, you might opt for a sleeker look by threading the wires through an enclosed CableBox. Sold in white or black for about \$30 at The Container Store and containerstore.com



» Flat-screen televisions with silver frames and silver bases are a stylish alternative to all black. (Photo courtesy of Best Buy)

» The Converge POP Charging Station by Quirky is suitable for display and comes in an array of hues. (Photo courtesy of The Container Store.)



Speaking of speakers

Nautilus speakers from Bowers & Wilkins feature a distinctive sculptural profile. The snail-like design with horns was engineered for sound quality, but the unusual shape also is part of the appeal, says Scott Rundle, director of marketing for Bowers & Wilkins. "It is art about art as much as (it's about) music," he says. The standard models are sold in midnight blue or white, but B&W also offers custom-paint options. About \$60,000 for a pair. Sold at Magnolia Design Center sites (within select Best Buy stores) including Boca Raton, Pembroke Pines and Aventura.

The selection of Beolab speakers at Bang & Olufsen includes some intriguing shapes. Beolab 18 is tall and sleek in wood and anodized aluminum, while Beolab 5 sort of resembles a futuristic space station, with a cone-shaped base topped by a trio of brushed aluminum discs. Prices for Beolab speakers range from about \$4,000 to \$38,000.

For a natural setting, some outdoor weather-resistant speakers are disguised to resemble rocks. Dimensions vary as do facades, including granite, coral and lava. About \$100 to \$350 for many models at bestbuy.com, amazon.com and others.

Hold the phone!

For a whimsical approach to parking a portable phone, PBTeen.com offers fun options. The selection includes a



» The Nautilus speaker by Bowers & Wilkins features a distinctive sculptural profile. (Photo courtesy of Bowers & Wilkins.)



» Speakers disguised as rocks are perfect for outdoor living. (Photo courtesy of Best Buy.)



» The Bobino Folding Phone Holder comes in black or white. (Photo courtesy of The Container Store.)

bright yellow ball with an emoji-ish smiley face, a slice of watermelon, and the red toothy smile of white shark. Prices are \$29 and \$35 at PBTeen.com

Bobino Folding Phone Holder provides a platform for the device directly under the socket where it's powering up. The phone holder, in white or black, hangs from the adapter plugged into the outlet. About \$8 at The Container Store, containerstore.com and Amazon.com

Power-up stations

Professional organizer Michelle Worthington of Worthy Spaces in Boca Raton suggests repurposing a junk drawer as a charging station. Place a power strip in the drawer, rout out a hole for the plug to reach a socket, and the array of family phones, tablets and other portable devices are neatly tucked away while recharging.

Some docking stations are suitable for display. The Converge POP Charging Station by Quirky features a sleek easel-like profile with four USB outlets. They're offered in an array of hues, including lime, white and aqua. About \$30 at The Container Store and containerstore.com