



# Glam up your gizmos

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By Arieenne Thompson, USA TODAY

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Who says your iPod shouldn't look as sleek as you do for back to school?

"At a certain point, tech almost is fashion, because it is such an integral part of how we manage our lives. (Technology) is really a part of how we express ourselves and that outward expression has a 'cool' factor that comes straight from the design world," *Wired* magazine's Mark McClusky says.

USA TODAY asks McClusky and *Seventeen* magazine's Joanna Saltz to weigh in on gadget gear that's just right for the classroom.

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### The gear The scoop Geek or chic?



Neoprene laptop sleeve, \$24-\$9 in dots or stripes at [Containerstore.com](#)

**The gear:** Sleek is the name of the game when lugging a laptop around campus. And, it also doesn't hurt to show some color. When it comes to basic bags, "people are looking for something with a little more style and flair," McClusky says.

**Geek or chic?** Chic. This is a great way to take that "boring black laptop bag and make it less fuddy-duddy," McClusky says.



Swarovski crystal earphones in black/watermelon, \$50 at [Shopintuition.com](#)

**The scoop:** Rock out in style with embellished headphones to hook up to your MP3 player or computer. "We're seeing a lot of sparkle and glitter in fashion today," Saltz says.

**Geek or chic?** Chic. "You can get headphones anywhere, but with these, you won't need earrings," she says.



Solar-powered messenger bag, \$240 at [Uncommongoods.com](#)

**The scoop:** Going green has never been easier — or more mutually beneficial. A solar-powered messenger bag uses an alternative source of energy to charge your cell phone, MP3 player and PDA.

**Geek or chic?** Geek. Solar power is "fantastic," but the bag is a "little old school," Saltz says. "In the future, (companies) will figure out a more subtle way" to sell environmentalism.



Louis Vuitton iPod Shuffle Cover, \$150 at [eLuxury.com](#)

**The scoop:** Go glam with a high-fashion iPod case. "These kinds of pieces are perfect because it allows everyone to get a little bit of luxury," Saltz says.

**Geek or chic?** Chic. "Louis Vuitton is the ultimate in fashion," McClusky says.



Tokidoki for LeSportsac "Portatelefono" media case, \$84 at [Nordstrom.com](#)

**The scoop:** Cut down on bulk with a little bag that's still large enough to carry an iPod and cell phone, as well as an ID card and keys. "Girls want style to pervade every aspect of their life, so tech is the next obvious extension," Saltz says.

**Geek or chic?** It's both a little geek and a little chic. "Japan is one of those places where tech and fashion are almost inseparable," and this is a good example, McClusky says.



Brown leather excursion gadget organizer. On sale for \$55 at [Redenvelope.com](#)

**The scoop:** Avoid a mess of cords and wires with a sleek multi-pocket gadget organizer perfect for hanging in a locker or throwing in a backpack. "It's all about things that multitask," Saltz says. No one wants to "carry a thousand things."

**Geek or chic?** Geek. "There's nothing particularly sexy about it," McClusky says, so it's strictly tech, "since it keeps in a locker or throwing in the rat's nest to a minimum."



Sena dockable case for iPhone, preorder for \$41.60 at [Senacases.com](#)

**The scoop:** The iPhone is a multi-tasker's dream, and a classy, leather case will protect the delicate interface from daily wear and tear.

**Geek or chic?** Both. This is in the middle, say McClusky, because it "serves a tech function, but is also pretty nice-looking."

Laptop sleeves by [The Container Store](#); earphones by [Shopintuition.com](#); messenger bag by [Uncommongoods.com](#); iPod Shuffle cover by [eLuxury.com](#); media case by [Nordstrom.com](#); gadget organizer by [Red Envelope](#); iPhone case by [Senacases.com](#)

Don't have the megabucks to shell out for an iPhone? Try some tech-inspired apparel. Joanna Saltz decodes these extras:

### The gear The scoop



Neon headphones tee, \$28 at [Urbanouffitters.com](#)

**The scoop:** Make some noise. Graphic tees "show what you're thinking without having to say anything."



Microcassette earrings, \$9 per earring at [Fredflare.com](#)

**The scoop:** Microcassette earrings are a "wink at the tech trend. They're a throwback to a different era."



Power/play buttons cuff links and pin, \$45-\$85 at [Uncommongoods.com](#)

**The scoop:** Press play on style. Electronics-inspired cufflinks are a "perfect detail to a plain shirt."

T-shirt by [urbn.com](#); earring by [Fredflare.com](#); cuff links and pin by [Uncommongoods.com](#)

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Love those earrings. I would have worn them when i was in 8th grade, but I don't know about now....

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Fashion—I'm to stupid to think for myself. More expensive means better than others so I will flaunt my status to them.  
Go for it, while I retire early and laugh at the lemmings.

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**askme** wrote: 20d ago  
The solar messenger bag shown in this article is indeed 'old school' but there are quite a few solar bags of all types on the market that could appeal to some who care about energy preservation and look good/cool at the same time. To get an overview about the solar bag models available may I suggest to have a look around in the Blog following this link: [http://www.talk2myshirt.com/blog/tag/solar\\_fashion](http://www.talk2myshirt.com/blog/tag/solar_fashion)

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