

# What's New!

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## Bass Egg

Today there are many types of external Bluetooth speakers that amplify and project your songs while away from your computer. But there's nothing like the Bass Egg!

It is stylishly formed in a black case that looks kind of like an egg cut in half and flipped end to end. It has a flat top and a metal disc on the bottom. It's about 3½" high and 2½" in diameter.

The controls are pretty simple. One side has a socket for a mini-USB plug, an LED indicator, and a three-position switch.

A cable comes with the device with a USB plug on one end and a mini-USB plug on the other for connection to your computer. It also has joined to it a cable with a 3.5 mm plug for attachment to the audio out of your phone.

The switch has positions for On, Off and Aux. On is used to pair the device to your phone through Bluetooth, using the normal functions to do so. On is also used to play your songs.

What's really amazing about this product is the ability to amplify and enrich the sound by placing it on various surfaces. Everything is a speaker, according to the Company. Setting it on wood, for example, gives a rich, deep bass. Glass gives a clear sound for highs. Metal emphasizes the bass. The larger the surface, the better the sound.

The device has an internal lithium-ion battery which is charged with the included cable. The LED turns red while charging and turns off when fully charged.

In my tests, I found the bass and treble response to be excellent, but the results depend importantly on the surface being used. When bass is accentuated, increased volume produces distortion.



It's fun trying the Bass Egg on different surfaces.

**About:** Bass Egg

[www.bassegg.com](http://www.bassegg.com)

**Price:** about \$100

## Polaroid Cube

This is an amazing device to take pictures and videos!

What's so amazing is the size. It is a cube with sides about 1" and a very small lens on one side. The bottom has a small but powerful magnet. The top has a circular button and a small LED. On the back inside a cover is a micro SD card slot, a video resolution switch and a connector for a micro-USB plug.

The operation is pretty simple. Turning the Cube on requires you to press the top button for three seconds. The LED lights up with a green light. Turning it off requires pressing the button for three seconds. Easy to remember!

The top button is also used to take pictures and video. This gets a little more complicated: To take a picture press the top button once – the LED blinks red once. To start video press the top button twice – the LED blinks red until video is stopped. To stop video press the top button once again – the LED returns to green.

The Cube takes pictures with its 6mp camera. Video can be either 720p or 1080p. Video takes up more space than you imagine so additional storage space is necessary. The micro SD slot in the back takes SDHC cards up to 32MB.

There is no ability to view the pictures or video on the Cube directly. However, it can be connected to a laptop or desktop with the included cable, micro-USB on one end, regular USB on the other.

Once connected, your laptop shows a storage device with a folder, DCIM. It has two folders, one for photos and one for videos.



The included files can be viewed as is, or transferred to other storage media.

The cable connecting the Cube to your laptop or desktop is also used for charging the included high-capacity battery.

There is an accessory kit available for the Cube which includes various items to attach the Cube to you, your bicycle, your skateboard, your kayak or whatever. You can take exciting video of whatever is going on in front of it.

**About:** Cube

**Manufacturer:** Polaroid  
[www.polaroid.com](http://www.polaroid.com)

**Price:** about \$100

## Tablift

Here's an unusual product which fits a specific need – the ability to read comfortably in bed.

When you open the product box you seem to be looking at some sort of arachnid, but when you take it out, you have a center piece with legs that can be extended and formed into various shapes.

You can use this product on virtually any tablet. The center piece has three slots for the bottom of your table, slanted at different angles. There is an elastic strap to hold the tablet in place on the center piece. You can adjust the length of the strap to accommodate portrait or landscape mode.

You can use this product in bed, while reclining or while sitting. You just form the legs to fit the situation you're in.



It's most useful if you are streaming a movie or show while lying down or reclining, since you don't need to use your hands to hold the tablet.

I was even able to use this product with my iPhone, although it's not often that I stream anything on it.

This is an unusual but useful product.

**About:** Tablift

**Vendor:** nbryte  
[www.nbryte.com](http://www.nbryte.com)

**Price:** about \$60

## Dotz

Here's an innovative idea – create your own design for your smartphone, tablet or book case.

The Dotz Company offers kits of pieces of different colors with which you can put together just about any picture of pattern you'd like.

You get a frame to work in and a package of small tiles. You create a pattern or your own choosing, or you can follow one of the designs prepared by the company.

The company offers several types of cases. For example, one for iPhone 5 or one for Galaxy S4. There is a grid on the back in which you insert your tiles to create your design.

The kits come with pictures of various pictures and patterns you can copy if you don't want to spend the time to make your own.

The kits of pieces have several different sizes and lengths and are of different colors. Fit the pieces you want to use into the grid of the case to make your design.

This an innovative and clever method of creating a smartphone or tablet case. You can use your imagination to make your favorite cover.

**About:** Dotz

[www.theDotzCompany.com](http://www.theDotzCompany.com)

**Price:** \$4 to \$30, depending on kit chosen

