

CES 2011: BEST OF THE BEST

We combed the gargantuan show floor to bring you the early word on this year's most exciting Mac and iOS gear. **BY NIC VARGUS**

CES is a royal flush of nerd-tastic gadgets and gear—but most of it isn't exactly tailored to Apple fans. You can see everything from TVs to washing machines to flashlights in the grand halls of the Las Vegas Convention Center. That's why we spent most of our time in the Apple-centric iLounge, which doubled in size since last year. When the dust settled (and our AT&T service bars finally reappeared), we distilled everything we'd seen down to these favorites.

By far, the majority of Apple-related gear at CES was for iPhones and iPads. So when we saw Mac stuff, we took notice. One of our jackpot finds was Mobee's Magic Charger (\$49.90, mobeetechnology.com), a nifty and utilitarian induction charger for the Magic Mouse. You place the custom battery pack inside your Magic Mouse, rest it on the included charging pad, and it charges wirelessly when you're not using it. And it looks rad, as does our other favorite Maccessory, the H-Squared Mini mount (\$49.95, store.h-sq.com), which was designed in conjunction with Apple's Mac mini team. It replaces your mini's cover with a mountable one you can screw right into a wall. Bonus: there's also a screw pattern for VESA mounting, so you can attach your mini to the back of a VESA-compatible monitor, like, say, the Cinema Display. Our favorite little extra is an optional white LED backlight that gives your mounted mini some ground-effects style.

And speaking of style, we saw more snazzy cases than we knew what to do with. Amidst the piles of cases, plentiful as poker chips, we found a couple that deserved a shout-out. Both Speck (speckproducts.com) and Trtl Bot (trtlbot.com) had sleek cases with pull-out tabs for stand-up viewing. Mophie brought ace design to its new Juice Pack Plus (\$99.95, mophie.com), which combines a bigger, two-day battery with a grippy rubber coating. And its new iPod touch-only, gaming-focused Pulse case (price TBA) rumbles, giving you the kind of force feedback that you're used to on your Xbox or PlayStation.

Scosche (scosche.com) had plenty of cases too, but we were most impressed with its new heart rate monitor. The MyTrek attaches to your

arm, instead of lying across your chest like it used to. Can you stay in a specific heart rate zone? No problem, and it'll help you get there with all sorts of music. Or use the iPhone's built-in GPS to tell you how far you've traveled and how many calories you burned in the process.

When we left Scosche, we could hear audible thumping—but it wasn't our hearts racing. CES's audio offerings were nearly limitless: headphones with touchscreens, chunks of decibel-boosting plastic, and Griffin's sweet StompBox pedalboard for guitar-shreddin' iPad owners (\$99.99, griffintech.com). But our absolute favorite audio invention was the Zeppelin Air by Bowers & Wilkins (\$599.99, bowers-wilkins.com). Similar to its predecessor, the Zeppelin Air is a piece of art with a graceful shape and shiny chrome dock for any and all iPods and iPhones. But the real

CES's nearly limitless audio gear included touchscreen headphones and a pedalboard for guitar-shreddin' iPad owners.

beauty is that it works with AirPlay, so you won't have to use that dock unless you feel like it. B&W isn't the first company to implement this technology, but the Zeppelin Air is the best speaker to use it so far.

But even B&W's near-perfect audio doesn't sound as good as never getting a speeding ticket again. Our best in show, the iRadar by Cobra (\$159.99, cobairadar.com), combines a radar/laser detector with an iPhone app. Thanks to a Bluetooth connection, the iRadar tracks your phone's location with GPS, then takes advantage of Cobra's database of speed and red-light cameras to give you ample warning over the speaker. But best of all is a new feature, coming this spring, that will pool the info of all iRadar users, so if your detector picks up a radar gun in use, it updates other users nearby, creating an impressive live database. Now *that's* innovative product design.



Cobra's iRadar hardware and app work in unison to prevent you from ever getting a speeding ticket again.



Griffin's StompBox is a real pedalboard for guitarists. The only difference is, this one works with your iPad.



Cool design, great sound, and it works with AirPlay—who could ask for more from B&W's Zeppelin Air.



Mophie's vibrating Pulse case will make Angry Birds that much more intense.