

## Perfect gifts: Tech gifts for grads and dads

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A phone book-sized dictionary might have been a great graduation gift for Mom and Dad, but today's grad is tech-savvy — and the gifts should be the same. Of course, it goes without saying that dads like tech gifts, too. So whatever you select for your grad may also work for his big day.

Odds are your grad has a cell phone (hopefully with the unlimited text messaging plan) and an iPod, but there are plenty more cool

tech gifts to choose from. Here are some suggestions:

### Better Energy Systems Solio Hybrid Charger

**What it is:** An energy-efficient, portable and environmentally friendly charger for most PDAs, MP3 players, digital cameras, portable game players and other devices without carrying a charger for each device.

All you do is switch the adapter tip for the device needing a charge. The tips included are a USB port replicator tip for devices such as iPhones and iPods; a mini-USB tip for devices made by Motorola, BlackBerry and Garmin; and a Nokia tip.

The water-resistant device uses a solar panel and an enclosed battery in a compact (7¾ inches by 2 inches by ½ inch) case for charging gadgets on the go.

A solar charge takes 10-12 hours. Or an included USB cable can be hooked to a computer for a six-hour charge. One hour of sunshine will give a cell phone about 15 minutes of talk time or 40 minutes of MP3 music. Once the unit has a full charge, the



### Maxwell's HP/NC-IV Noise Cancellation Headphones

power is stored for up to one year.

**Information:** [www.solio.com](http://www.solio.com), \$79.95.

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**What it is:** While other companies make these types of products, some cost about what a house payment can be.

Users can expect a few full days of battery life (two AAA), which are stored and hidden in the ear cup.

The headphones are designed with comfort and style padded cups fit comfortably over your ears, a switch on the cord has volume settings for low, medium and high. Most importantly, they produce excellent sound for the price.

A hard-cover travel case is included as well as gold-plated cords and extensions, which are used in most every portable media player as well as airline seat ports.

**Information:** [www.maxell-usa.com](http://www.maxell-usa.com)

**Please see Gifts, 2B**  
[maxell-usa.com](http://www.maxell-usa.com), \$129.99 (but you can find online for about half of that).

### Macally PowerTune

**What it is:** A portable, 4-in-1 iPod speaker with Li-ion battery charger, protective case and stand. This system has two 500mW speakers along with a volume control and works best in situations where close proximity listening is needed.

The battery will double the iPod play time and is recharged from a computers USB port. The PowerTune supports 5th generation (video) and the classic (video).

**Information:** [www.macally.com](http://www.macally.com), \$34.99.

### Brite-Strike's Lightning-Strike Flashlight

**What it is:** This is a 65-lumens flashlight designed by a police officer for self defense with its "Tri Strike Crown" on both ends. White light is beamed for both lighting an area and to temporarily blind an attacker.

It's housed in a 3.5-inch case, is rugged and compact since it's made of aircraft-grade material. One AA battery will power the device, which also has a 100-decibel alarm.

**Information:** [www.brite-strike.com](http://www.brite-strike.com), \$79.99.

### Digital Foci. Inc.'s Digital Keychain Photo

**What it is:** Your graduate (or proud parent) can carry their favorite photos in a digital photo frame, which has a 1.5-inch color LCD screen in a device that weighs only 1.2 oz. The frame holds up to 74 digital photos on the 8MB of internal memory.

Images can be viewed manually or with an adjustable slideshow. Included is Photo Viewer Software to convert and resize JPEG and BMP images from your computer (Mac or PC) to the device, which runs on a rechargeable lithium battery for about 9 hours of battery life.

Charging is done with the included AC adapter or USB cable on the unit, which you can get in black, silver and blue.

**Information:** [www.digitalfoci.com](http://www.digitalfoci.com), \$29.95.



## LowePro Flipside Series Camera Backpacks

**What it is:** Functional and good looking storage solutions for digital imaging and technology products. The Flipside 200 and 300 (bigger) series camera backpacks give users a secure and comfortable carrying option for a digital SLR camera with a

lens attached, along with additional lenses and accessories.

Both water-resistant backpacks feature a back entry to give the user easy access to all areas of the main compartment where a digital SLR and multiple lenses or accessories can be stored.

Outer storage panels are also included to centralize accessories and

gear along with a hideaway tripod holder to carry a compact tripod or monopod.

The Flipside bags are available in black, arctic blue/black and red/black.

**Information:** [www.lovepro.com](http://www.lovepro.com), \$79.99-\$99.99.

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