



# INTO THE DANGER ZONE

FIRST-PERSON EXCLUSIVE: ARON RALSTON FACES DEATH AT 22,000 FEET ON THE WILDEST MOUNTAIN IN SOUTH AMERICA

# Men's Journal

LIVE THE ADVENTUROUS LIFE

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STYLE & DESIGN

# 99 Perfect Things

The New  
Cutting  
Edge of  
Gear

Wireless  
Home Theater

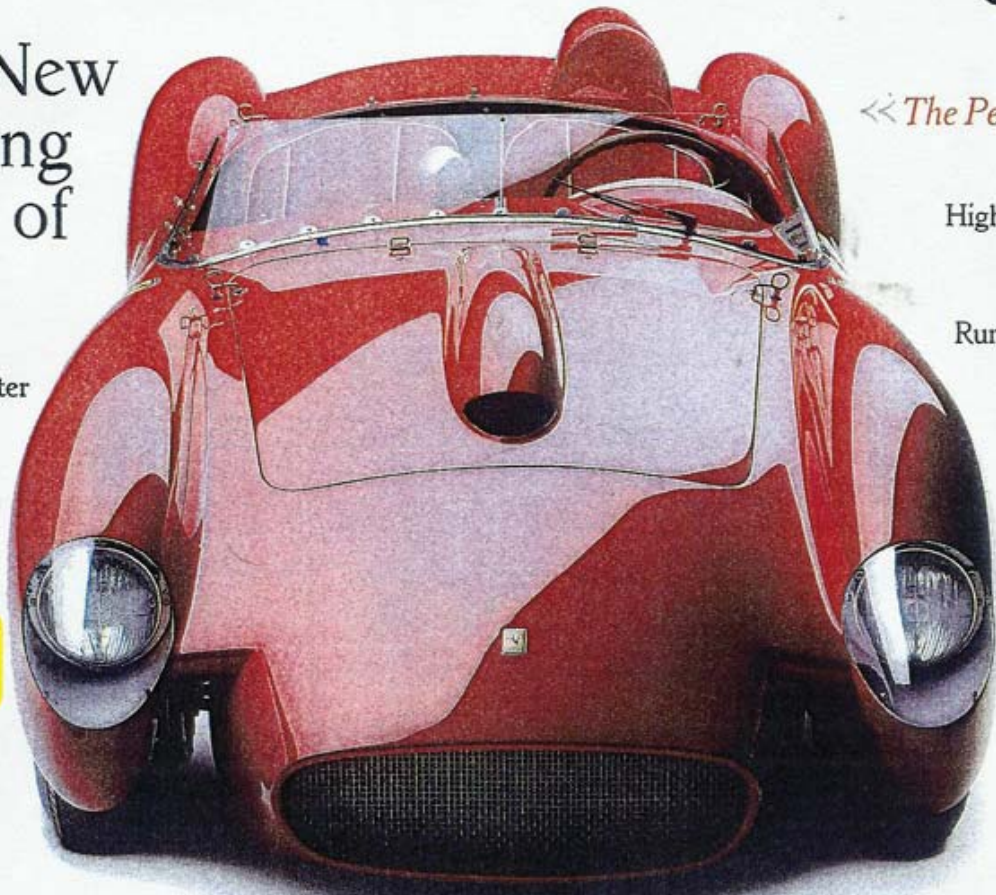
Bone-  
Induction  
MP3 Player

Trillion-  
Color TV

Bluetooth  
Sunglasses

Broadband  
Cell Phone

Hydrogen-  
Powered  
Motorcycle



<< *The Perfect Car*  
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High-Definition  
Radio

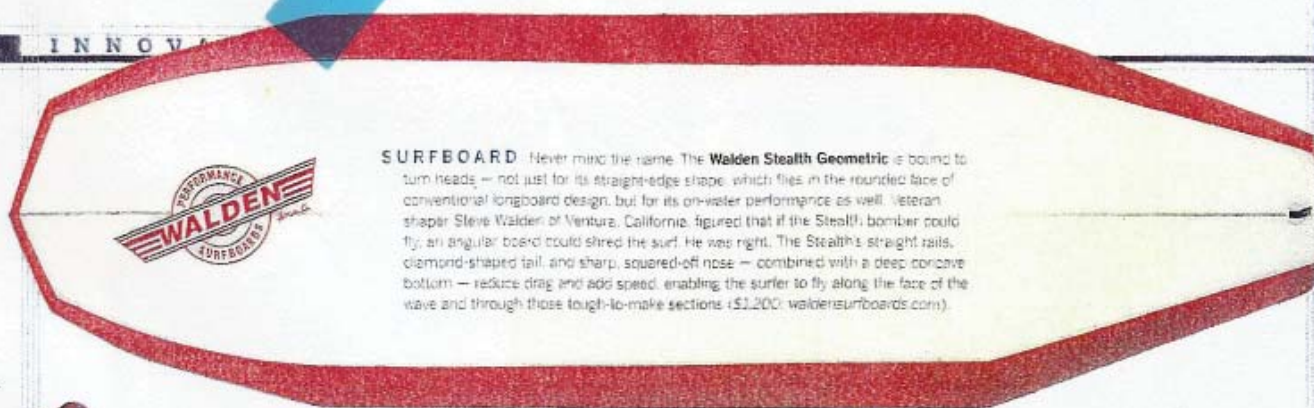
Pneumatic  
Running Shoes

Nanotech  
Skis

Human  
Gyroscope

Stealth  
Surfboard





**SURFBOARD** Never mix the name. The **Walden Stealth Geometric** is bound to turn heads — not just for its straight-edge shape, which flies in the rounded face of conventional longboard design, but for its on-water performance as well. Veteran shaper Steve Walden of Ventura, California, figured that if the Stealth bomber could fly, an angular board could shred the surf. He was right. The Stealth's straight rails, diamond-shaped tail, and sharp, squared-off nose — combined with a deep concave bottom — reduce drag and add speed, enabling the surfer to fly along the face of the wave and through those tough-to-make sections. (\$1,200; [waldensurfboards.com](http://waldensurfboards.com)).



**SKIS** At the 2004 alpine world championships, every medal but one went to an athlete on Atomic skis. Where did this juggernaut come from? Altenmarkt, Austria, where Atomic's risk-taking design studio is located. Their latest advance is the first nanotechnology ski: the **Izor 9:7**. Technicians inject microscopic silicon-pyrite crystals into the resins that infuse the ski's carbon fiber layer. The more particles, the stiffer the ski, and the less structural bulk required. By varying the rigidity from tip to tail, the skis produce medal-worthy speed and control. (from \$800; [atomicski.com](http://atomicski.com)).

**SUNGLASSES** Like the pop-up timer on a turkey, the **TechXtreme** tells athletes when they're about to be overcooked. The specs exploit a phenomenon called brain temperature tunnel, discovered by Yale researcher Marc Abreu. It's a little spot on the nose that indicates the temperature of the brain, and thus body core. While you work out, a small, flexible probe takes readings and relays them wirelessly to the included wristwatch. Abreu hopes the system will help prevent heat injury in everyone from adventure racers to pro soccer football players. That, and a little sunscreen. (\$250; 319-545-7379).



**PERSONAL BROADCASTER**

Dying to watch your hometown team but stuck at an airport 2,000 miles from home? Get a **Slingbox**. This candy-bar-like gizmo connects to the back of your cable or satellite box and transmits whatever's on TV at home over the Web to your Wi-Fi-enabled laptop. The picture quality is crisp, and a streaming technology, code-named Lebowski, ensures there's no delay while remotely channel surfing. The best part? No monthly fee. (\$250; [slingmedia.com](http://slingmedia.com)).

**+ POWER TO THE PEOPLE +**  
A \$100 laptop developed by MIT will help close the world's technology gap  
By Paul Hochman

**W**hen futurist and inventor Nicholas Negroponte introduced his concept laptop computer at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, this past January, global leaders cheered. But they weren't excited because the laptop's processor was fast (it wasn't), the hard drive was huge (nope, just one gigabyte), or the screen was crystal-clear (in truth, it was a little hazy). The reason for the ripple of shock running through the crowd was the price: a hundred bucks.

Negroponte, co-founder of the Media Lab at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and one of the most respected thinkers in the digital world, has been an angel investor for more than 40 tech startups. But this particular project has more humble beneficiaries: kids in poor countries. Less than 11 percent of the world's population has Internet access. Negroponte's goal is to get everybody surfing and to

put computers into the hands of those who need them. To that end, they'll sell the laptops only to ministries of education, which will distribute them to students like textbooks.

Despite its low price, the computer is not a bare-bones throwaway. "It will be a Linux-based, full-color, full-screen laptop," Negroponte says. "It will be rugged, use a wind-up charger, be Wi-Fi- and cell-phone-enabled, and have USB ports galore." The design challenge for producing the computer, available in 2006, centered around reducing the price of the screen, which is responsible for half the cost of the average laptop. The solution: a mechanism that resembles a miniature rear-projection television. The free Linux operating system also brought down costs. "Today's laptops are obese," says Negroponte. "Two-thirds of their software is used to manage the other third, which mostly does the same functions nine different ways."

**TECH SUPPORT** Kids in Cambodia with their MIT-provided laptops

