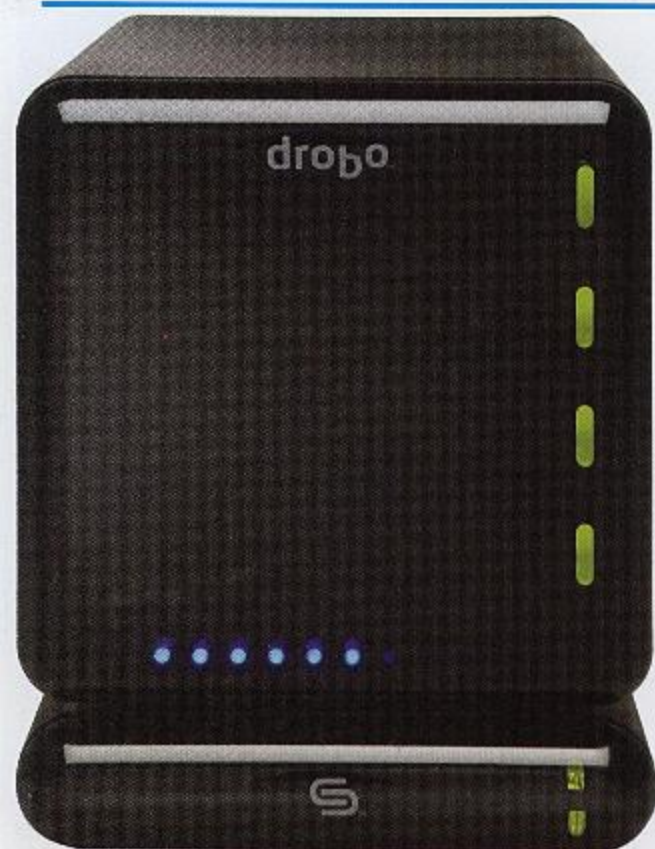


GADGETS &



BACKUP'S A BREEZE

Dubbed by its manufacturers as the world's first storage robot, the Drobo is an innovative new storage device that takes the hassles and brainwork out of the storage and backup equation. The device is not only aesthetically gorgeous but even the technically challenged will be able to get this product up and running, and maintained. The secret to the Drobo is the firmware which drives it. This software was designed to handle every task, all you need to do is install the software on your computer. The Drobo can accommodate up to four hard drives of any capacity and it can even take a mixed batch. This means that you can use any combination of old and new hard drives to setup or expand its capacity. On the front of the unit are four LED lights which indicate the status of each drive, when an LED changes from green to red you simply need to replace the hard drive by pulling it out and replacing it with a new one. The Drobo will take care of the rest, you don't even have to configure the software before you remove a drive, you simply replace it when a drive goes faulty. The Drobo is PC and Mac compatible and an interesting point to note is that it does not use RAID (a system to ensure redundancy) system. The company developed its own proprietary RAID-like software. Price TBA from Project 3 (www.project3.co.za)



DIGITAL DRAWINGS

If you are a photographer, artist, or graphic designers, chances are you contemplated investing in a tablet at some point in time. The latest product from the world leader in this industry builds on a legacy of impressive products in the Intuos range. The Intuos3 is available in various sizes ranging from A6 to A3 with the latter obviously being the flagship in the range. The active area on this A3 tablet is 62 cm x 43 cm x 3.5 cm and it boasts an impressive 1024 pressure levels, making this ideal for artists and digital painters as the pressure of the pen will reflect accurately on your drawing. The overall design of the Intuos3 is also award winning, literally, and it has walked away with a few design awards from various institutions. While the A3 Intuos3 might seem rather pricey at first, you do get what you pay for, this tablet is second to none.

R2,959 to R9,402 from Direct Services (www.directservices.co.za)

GIZMOS

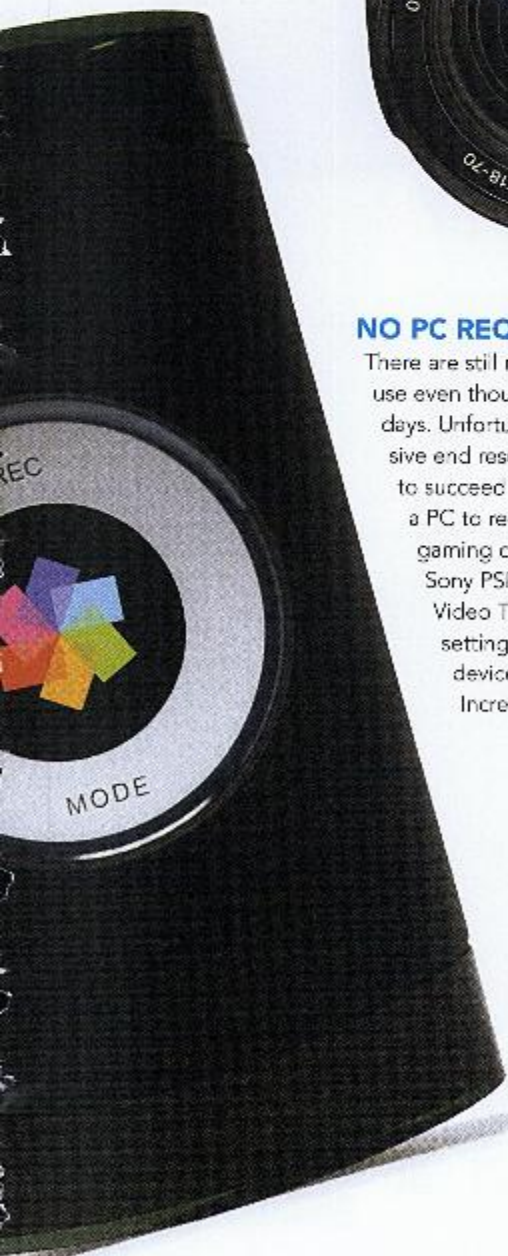


SNAP THIS!

Sony is no stranger to the digital photography market, they have one of the strongest brands in the digital compact market today. Not too long ago they also tried their hand the DSLR (Digital SLR) market and not surprisingly they done so in true Sony fashion. The Sony Alpha range is highly regarded in the industry and with the launch of the latest model; Sony cemented their brand as a serious competitor to the likes of Canon and Nikon. The Sony Alpha DSLR A350 sports too many features to mention here but include 14.2 megapixels, image stabilisation, and one of the most innovative new features to hit the DSLR, a fold out LCD that makes picture taking easy at awkward angles. The DSLR A350 also boasts a full range of DSLR features, some of which are only found on more expensive camera bodies. Looking at its retail price, Sony targets this particular model at the semi professional but amateurs will appreciate the fact that this is one of the easiest camera's to master. R9, 999 from Sony (www.sony.co.za)

NO PC REQUIRED

There are still many grey areas in the legality of recording TV shows for private use even though products that allow you to do so are pretty common these days. Unfortunately, few of these offer an easy to use solution with impressive end results. Pinnacle's Video Transfer device on the other hand seem to succeed where others horribly failed. For one thing, you don't need a PC to record footage straight from TV, a video camera, or even your gaming console. You can record video straight to a USB flash disk, iPod, Sony PSP, and even an external USB hard drive. Moreover, the Pinnacle Video Transfer is dead easy to use and the highest of its three quality settings are pretty impressive. As a bonus feature, any supported USB device will also be powered when this product is in use. R1,799 from Incredible Connection (www.incredible.co.za)



WIRELESS SURVEILLANCE

Gone are the days that video surveillance was something only certified professionals could install and maintain. Axis, one of the world leaders in IP surveillance products has a superb product called the Ax's 207W surveillance camera, targeted at the home and small business user. This nifty little camera can be mounted anywhere indoors and only require a single power cable, the data is transmitted via the built-in 802.11g wireless transmitter and the built-in web server allows you to log into the camera from anywhere in the world even from a compatible mobile phone. The significance of this particular model is the fact that it captures video footage at 1 megapixel allowing you to see much more detail than the average VGA surveillance camera. The maximum image size that this camera can produce is 1280x1024 at a frame rate of 12 frames per second.

R3,461 from Shop 4 Security (www.s4s.co.za)

