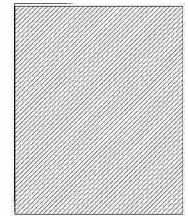


Narrow down all of the electronics products from the past year to only the award-worthy? If it sounds like an impossible task, well ... let's just say it isn't easy. It is fun, though, and our editors had a good time wading through the hundreds of submissions—comparing, contrasting and commending them, along with our own recommendations. Judgment criteria included everything from value to technological innovation to convenience to good ol' wow factor. We've got every budget covered too, with products that sell from \$4 to \$185,000. At the heart of our Products of the Year awards remains our core belief that electronics can enhance people's everyday lives, which today also means keeping up with the green movement. Manufacturers are working harder in this respect too, and many offerings deserve recognition. How did we do overall? Check out the slideshows on www.electronicshouse.com and let us know. Some products have been available since last fall, so perhaps you've experienced them firsthand—and if you're one of the owners of KEF's elite Muon speakers or Meridian's new M810 projection system, we're very jealous.

HENK DAWSON



2008

PRODUCTS OF THE YEAR

**1. SONOS**

ZonePlayer 120 Call it plug-and-play multiroom audio. This wireless player has a built-in 55-watt amplifier that plays your tunes throughout the house—all you have to do is hook it up to speakers. The compact design lets you place the ZonePlayer 120 just about anywhere, and its SonosNet 2.0 wireless mesh networking technology sends and receives music via three antennas. **THE NITTY-GRITTY** Efficient, fan-less aluminum casing. ■ Streaming digital files or online subscription services. ■ Low-distortion sound at 20 Hz to 20 kHz. **\$499 sold separately/\$999 as part of Sonos Bundle 150 | www.sonos.com**

2. SUNBRITETV

4610HD All-Weather Outdoor LCD Forget lugging a TV back and forth to your patio or pool area. You can leave SunBriteTV's 46-inch LCD out there all year long and bask in 1080p high definition. The TV was designed with an all-weather build quality that protects it from rain, dirt, dust, insects and extreme weather climates. Anti-glare and improved 2,000:1 contrast lets you view it in various lighting conditions. Don't forget to wear sunscreen. **THE NITTY-GRITTY** RS-232 serial and IR control for systems integration. ■ Internal thermostat yields operation in 24- to 122 degree F temperatures. ■ Scratch-resistant window. **\$5,495 | www.sunbrite.tv**

3. APC

Back-UPS ES 750 Not only is it an uninterruptible power supply (battery backup), the Back-UPS ES 750 (BE750G) saves energy. Its SmartShedding Technology allows the master outlet to sense when a computer has either been turned off or has gone into sleep mode, so it can shut off power to three unused peripherals plugged into the controlled outlets. By cutting power to these "dark loads," APC says the Back-UPS ES 750 can provide a savings of \$40 per year. **THE NITTY GRITTY** 10 outlets, including one master and three controlled. ■ Maintenance-free sealed Lead-Acid battery. ■ 6-foot cord. **\$100 | www.apc.com**

4. HP

TouchSmart IQ500 Series PC This computer is like a blown-up version of your iPod touch. It combines a 22-inch touchscreen display and energy-efficient Intel processor to be an all-in-one touchscreen PC. Let your fingers tap or sweep across the high-def screen to access information, media, social networks and more. Its sleek design puts the HP TouchSmart PC along the lines of a messenger bag, so you can easily keep it at your side. **THE NITTY-GRITTY** Manage your PC media without a keyboard or mouse. ■ Built-in DVD burner. ■ Includes HP TouchSmart software. **From \$1,299 | www.hp.com/touchsmart**