

20 gadgets under £50

Do you have a spare £50 lying around? Here are some great pieces of tech that you can pick up for a bullseye...

What can you buy for £50 nowadays? A night down Johnny's Wine Bar? A pair of cheapish jeans? Ten large Big Mac Meals? Well, yes, you can, but wouldn't you rather splash out your nifty reddie on a great gadget? Of course you would!

Over the next four pages, we bring you some of the best tech that won't break the bank, from fitness bands to speakers and headphones to some rather cool smart-home gear. So get to the post office, ask the teller to give you a crisp £50 and then get shopping. Or just buy online, of course...

01 MISFIT FLASH

■ You don't need to fork out for a fancy fitness tracker when you can splash out on a Flash. The sleekest budget tracker around, this little gem doesn't shirk on features, with calories burned, distance, steps and sleep quality all recorded and synced with the Misfit app. It's also water-resistant to 30 metres, while the battery lasts for up to six months. **£24.99, www.misfit.com**



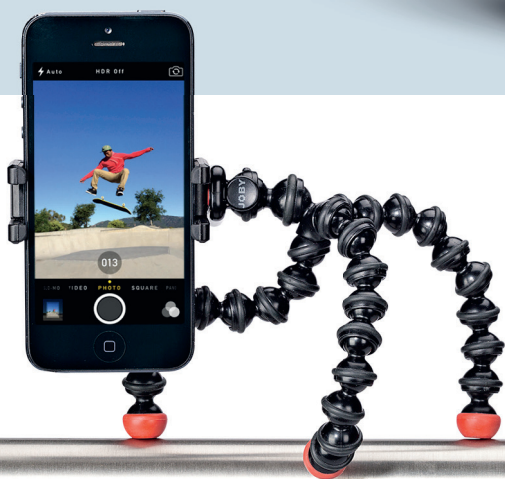
02 NOW TV BOX

■ With one of these teeny boxes, you can choose the Sky subscription you want, even if you don't have a dish. Various packages are available – from a day of Sky Sports to a month of Sky Movies – meaning you can cherry-pick the best of Sky's output. Plus you can watch the usual catch-up channels for free. **£20, www.nowtv.com**



04 QiSTONE+

■ The QiStone+ is a portable wireless charger that looks like a pebble, albeit a slightly plasticky, rectangular one with four LEDs on the front. Weird. But it comes packing a 4,000mAh battery so it can wirelessly charge your smartphone without using any wires itself – and those LEDs come in handy, as they tell you how much charge the QiStone+ has left. **£45, www.fonesalesman.com**



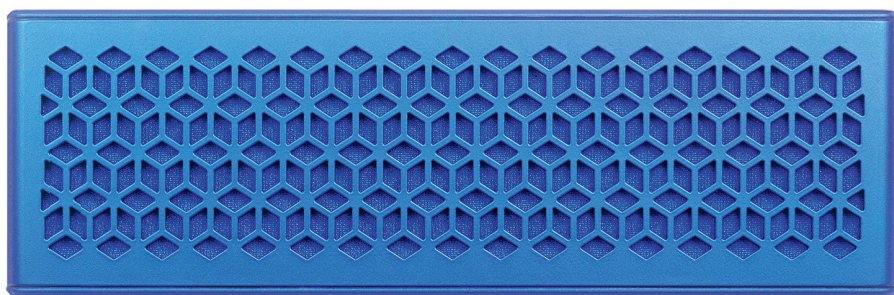
03 JOBY GORILAPOD MAGNETIC

■ GorillaPods seem to have been around forever, but that's because they're so damned brilliant, we can't even remember life before them. Those legs wind around almost anything to create a rock-steady tripod for your compact camera or smartphone. And the Magnetic version takes that further with magnets on each red foot, so it can stick to metal surfaces and even hang upside down. **£20, www.joby.com**

05 PHILIPS HUE

Philips' range of Wi-Fi lighting enables you to control the colour of your room, flash the lights and create a dimmed romantic ambience, all from your phone – and that's just the start of the connected-home, Internet of Things fun you can have with these smart bulbs. You can even get two for your £50.

From £25, www.philips.co.uk



06 CREATIVE MUVO MINI

This compact Bluetooth speaker has such strong, punchy sound that you'll barely believe its size and price. It doesn't hold back

on the features, either – it has NFC for simple connection, and it's even showerproof, so you can use it outdoors or in the bathroom without a care.

£50, uk.creative.com



08 LEATHERMAN REBAR

No line-up of sub-£50 must-haves should be without a Rebar. This compact addition to the Leatherman multi-tool range is an essential companion for those who love roughing it in the great outdoors. Its indestructible build quality, smooth action and strong, convenient tools make it every bit as useful as its bigger and more expensive brothers.

£50, www.leatherman.co.uk

07 PENCIL BY FIFTYTHREE

FiftyThree's smart stylus works so wonderfully with iPads that it seems churlish not to treat yourself to one. Just press the tip to the screen and you're off. The battery only needs to be recharged once a month, and there's even an eraser on the end of the stylus, just like with a normal pencil.

£50, www.fiftythree.com



09 TILE

Tile is a brilliant way to stop you losing your stuff. Simply attach the tiny Bluetooth square to anything (your keys, for example) and, if you mislay that item, it can be located with your smartphone. Brilliantly, you can also use Tile to find your phone. That's right – your phone can find your keys, and your keys can find your phone. Like all the best inventions, it's its simplicity that makes it brilliant.

£25, www.thetileapp.com



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10 SOUNDMAGIC E50S

■ Possibly the headphone world's best-kept secret, SoundMAGIC's E50S in-ears feature noise isolation, a smartphone hands-free remote, and truly astonishing sound quality considering the meagre outlay. What's more, they now have tangle-free cables and come in a variety of colours. **£50, www.ksdistribution.co.uk**



11 SYMA X5SW

■ Probably the cheapest live video-streaming quadcopter around, the Syma X5SW is also a very decent drone. It can even perform 360-degree flips at the

touch of a button – although it's best flown indoors unless it's relatively wind-free outside. It just nudges over our price ceiling but, if you find a quid behind the sofa, get it bought. **£51, www.thegadgetcollective.co.uk**



12 Fiio A3

■ You may not be able to get a pair of top-spec headphones for our £50 budget, but this stylish little box will certainly make you feel like you have them. At just 124mm long, the Fiio A3 is a truly portable headphone amplifier – just strap it to your smartphone or MP3 player using the supplied rubber bands, and it'll power up your headphone volume to 11. It comes in black or silver, so you can match it to your device. **£46, www.fiio.net**

13 BELKIN WEMO INSIGHT SWITCH

■ This clever box plugs into any 240v socket in your home. When you plug an electronic device into it, the WeMo Insight Switch will keep you connected to that appliance wherever you are, enabling you to turn it on or off, program customised notifications, and get info on your energy use. **£50, www.belkin.co.uk**



14 LOMOKINO SUPER 35

■ We all have snazzy smartphones that can record in QHD at silly frame rates, before letting us edit our footage in seconds. Borrhrring. So why not challenge yourself by shooting lomographic movies on 35mm analogue film with no sound? It's actually more fun than you can imagine, and the LomoKino Super 35 itself is beautiful and charming (although you'll have to accept that you're a hipster if you buy one). **£40, microsites.lomography.com/lomokino**



15 IKEA VARV

■ IKEA might be best known for making flat-pack furniture, but secretly it's also technical innovators. The second wireless charger in our list is also a lamp – yes, that's not one but two bits of tech for your £50 (kind of). The Swedish company's entry into the world of integrated inductive charging has been swift and incisive, with various Qi charging solutions now featuring in the furniture store's catalogue. **£50, www.ikea.com/gb**



16 NERF MEGA ROTOFURY

NERFs are probably the best-named things in existence, and the Mega RotoFury continues that fine tradition. NERF's highest-capacity Mega Blaster features a ten-dart rotating drum and Slam Fire, giving you the option of firing a steady stream of ten darts in a row, up to 90 feet, without having to reload. Fun is literally guaranteed.

£33, nerf.hasbro.com/en-gb



17 COPILOT PREMIUM EUROPE HD

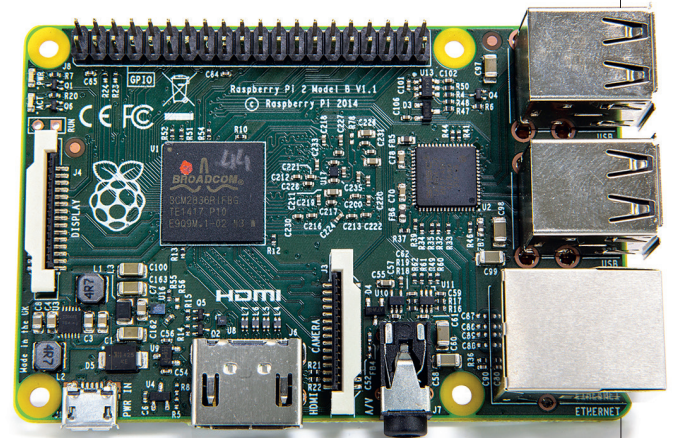
The CoPilot is a cut above free navigation apps, offering similar features to a low-to-mid-range big-name sat nav. The best feature is the ability to download maps for when you're offline, while traffic updates, a mount and a charger are each available for just a few pounds extra.

£35, copilotgps.com/uk/satnav

18 RASPBERRY Pi 2 MODEL B

The second iteration of the Raspberry Pi has an uprated quad-core processor and 1GB, meaning it's faster than its predecessor. It's easily the biggest bargain on these pages, and it would probably be easier if we listed what it *can't* do. But we won't – buy one of these and you can create any piece of tech you like, from retro console to media hub to music streamer to cloud server to robot to... You get the idea.

£30, www.raspberrypi.org



19 SAMSUNG M3 1TB

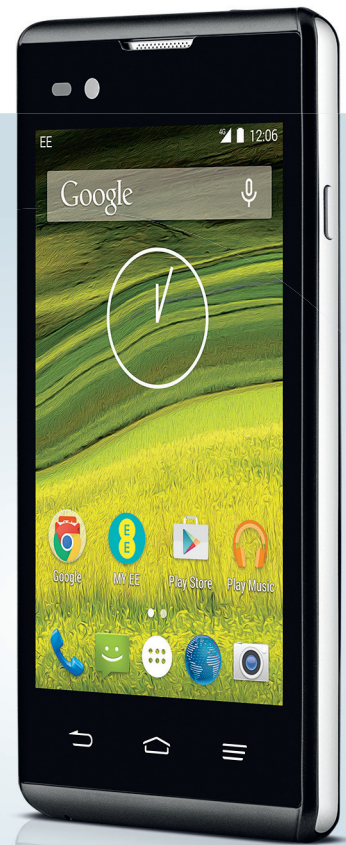
Keep your data and files safe, secure and on your person at all times with the Samsung M3. With your £50 budget, you can get the 1TB version, which offers enough storage for a lifetime of photos. It features USB 3.0 for fast transfer speeds, data encryption, and Samsung's Secure Manager and personal back-up systems. Plus it looks good and slips right into your pocket.

£50, www.samsung.com

20 EE ROOK

A smartphone for under £50? Without a contract? With 4G? Yup – EE has unveiled the Rook, a genuinely proper 4G phone running Android Lollipop 5.1 and toting a 5MP camera, 8GB of storage and a 64-bit 1GHz quad-core processor. Alright, its FWVGA screen isn't exactly going to challenge the Galaxy S6 (or much else) for sharpness and richness – but, you know, it's 50 quid.

£49, www.ee.co.uk



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