



Tech Talk

GADGET GIFT LIST

BY JEFF COTE, PACIFIC YACHT SYSTEMS



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1

**Vesper WatchMate XB-8000
SmartAIS Transponder**

\$1,000

Unlike an ordinary AIS, which only sends and receives data, smartAIS from Vesper Marine is an active AIS system with smart alarm logic that proactively alerts you when you have a potential collision situation. It uses navigation instrument data (wind, depth, speed, heading, log and temperature), GPS data (position, course and speed), AIS data and smart alert logic to continually determine safety implications and alert you. It also plots your anchor position and alerts you if your anchor drags. When your crew activates an AIS MOB device, it will allow you to see their current location for quick action. The free Android and Apple WatchMap app configures and monitors the XB-8000. Low energy consumption allows it to work continuously and does not require your phone or tablet to be on.
vespermarine.com

2

**Coastal Climate
Control's DC Watt Wizard**

\$200

If you have ever said, "I wonder what my solar panel is putting into the batteries?" then the DC Watt Wizard is for you. It's like a battery monitor for your solar panel and lets you know, instantly, how much power you are pulling from the sun. This unit can monitor any small/medium charging source or load for a reading on watts, volts, amps, accumulative amp/hours and run time. Data is displayed on a two-line, four-digit LED display with three customizable buttons. With an optional relay, alarm parameters can be set for over and under voltage, over current, over power, over amp/hours and over time limit.
coastalclimatecontrol.com

3

**Xantrex Freedom
SW Inverter/Chargers.**

\$2,600 to \$3,000

**Conext ComBox
\$500**

This new generation of inverter/chargers represents a highly sophisticated and advanced inverter/charger, which is available in two models, a 3,000-watt inverter with a 150-amp charger and a 2,000-watt inverter with a 100-amp charger. These pure sine inverters can be stacked so two 3,000-watt models would give you a total of 6,000 watts. The SW series also comes with an automatic generator start function that will start your generator based on battery voltage and stop after a pre-programmed amount of time. You can also add a Xantrex Conext ComBox that uses your onboard wifi to monitor the inverter, battery charger and generator start module through a web-based portal or smart phone and will text you if there is an issue.
xantrex.com

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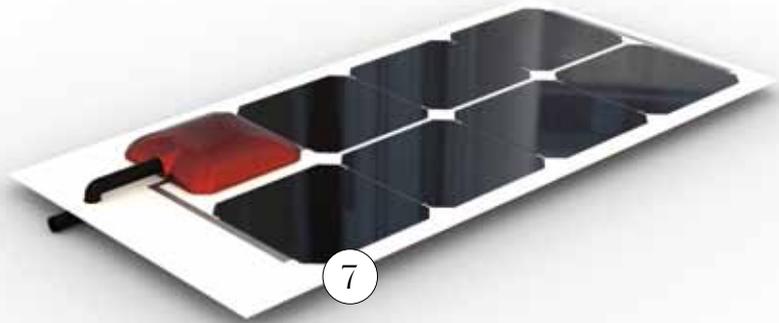
**Blueseas M2 State
of Charge Monitor**

\$520

This state-of-charge monitor accurately measures and monitors the state of charge of your batteries. At one glance, you see all the battery info without having to scroll or navigate to some hidden menu. It uses Organic Light Emitting Diode (OLED) technology to provide high contrast visibility during the day while utilizing auto dimming at night. The monitors, available for both AC and DC applications, accurately measure and monitor current, voltage and frequency of one battery bank while also measuring voltage on two other battery banks. It requires a two-inch round hole for installation but also ships with a square bezel for flush mounting.
blueseas.com



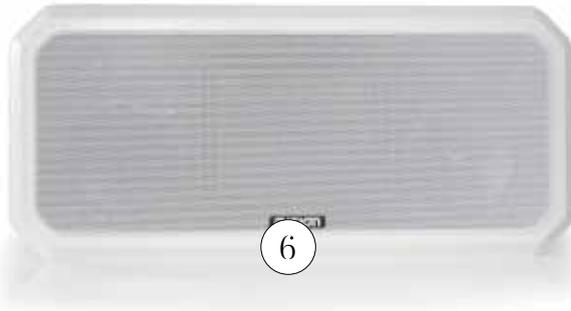
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ICOM M605 VHF Marine Radio

\$1,300

The ICOM M605 was a 2017 NMEA Product Award winner. This premium class D, DSC VHF radio has an integrated AIS receiver that can show real-time AIS vessel traffic information on the display. It has a wide viewing angle 4.3-inch, high resolution colour display with a night mode screen to provide optimal viewing in the dark. Using NMEA 2000 connectivity, the radio can exchange GNSS, AIS reports, DSC call information data, radio frequency and PGN list data on the network. It includes active noise cancelling, last call voice recording and an integrated GNSS receiver.
icomamerica.com

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Fusion Sound-Panel Speaker System

\$320

The Fusion Sound-Panel all-in-one, shallow mount speaker system has two soft dome tweeters, two custom four-inch speaker drivers and a bass radiator to deliver 200 watts of high quality audio for your boat. The sound panel provides great sound without taking up valuable space, it can be flush-mounted to 19 millimetres or surface mounted with no cutting at all. It can also be installed on the inside or outside as it is UV treated and IP65 rated against salt water and dust. If you have a TV installed on your boat, you can install the sound-panel just below it for a true theatre experience.
fusionentertainment.com

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Solbian ALLinONE

\$450 to \$1,000

The Solbian ALLinONE is the first flexible solar panel with a built-in smart battery charger. This is a very simple plug-and-play solar solution that combines the high efficiency of SunPower solar cells with an advanced, ultra compact MPPT charge controller in one flexible solar panel. They are currently available in 23-watt, 47-watt and 72-watt for 12-volt or 24-volt applications. This is a great solution if you have a boat on a mooring buoy or have no dock power and want to keep the starter battery charged. The smart controller ensures that the batteries are never over-charged even if they are left for long periods of time. In good sun the 23-watt version will give you six to seven Ah/day, the 47-watt will give you 12 to 14 Ah/day and the 72-watt will give you 18 to 22 Ah/day.
solbian.eu

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Shakespeare Super Halo Cell Booster

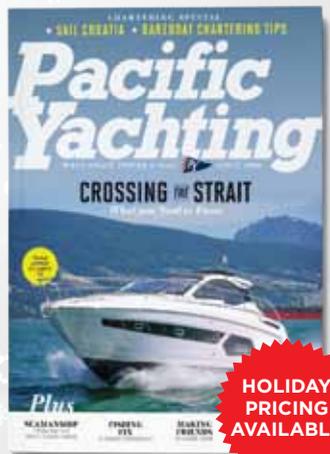
\$2,900

We first talked about this cell booster in our March 2016 Tech Talk article. We have now completed a number of installations and the reviews are really positive. Boaters have reported good service in places like Jedediah Island, Prideaux Haven and Wallace Island. It is the first five-band cell phone booster with 2G, 3G and 4G voice and data but for this system to work there must be some cell signal. This powerful 462-square-metre coverage signal amplifier boosts cell reception of all Canadian and U.S. mobile networks on all wireless devices such as air cards, personal hotspots/cell spots, Android and iPad tablet computers and all smartphones. It ships with everything you need to plug and play, a 50dB adjustable marine cell phone signal amplifier, an omni-directional outside antenna and a unidirectional inside panel antenna.
shakespeare-ce.com ▶

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Smartplug

\$350 to \$425

The Smartplug is now available in 50 amps. The 125-volt/250-volt inlets were designed to be used with three wires (125 volts) or four wires (250 volts) in a single inlet. The inlet connector provides an increased electrical contact area eliminating overheating conditions. The solid sleeve connection has a weather-proof seal and the mounting flange-holes match existing inlets so it can be easily installed to replace the old twist-type inlet products. The Smartplug is available in stainless steel and three non-metallic colours, (white, black or gray) and is made of high performance, flame resistant material.

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**Bluesea 5991 Battery
Post Mount Switch**

\$23

The Bluesea 5991 Battery Post Mount Switch is perfect for smaller outboard boats with limited space or those hard to reach places on your tender. It is made of tin-plated copper for maximum conductivity and corrosion resistance with a one-piece design cast bus to ensure a secure connection. It is ignition protected and safe for installation in gas engines. The clamp design fits standard tapered posts for either positive or negative side mounting. bluesea.com

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**Acti-Sense NGW-1
NMEA 2000 Gateway**

\$300

The Acti-Sense NGW-1 NMEA 2000 Gateway is the easiest way to link your boat's old NMEA 0183 equipment to a new NMEA 2000 network and vice-versa. It has a bi-directional converter with wide support of message types such as AIS and autopilot. actisense.com

Pacific Yacht Systems
marine electronics & electrical

Jeff Cote is a systems design engineer and owner of Pacific Yacht Systems, a full-service shop delivering marine electrical and navigation solutions for recreational boats. Visit their website and blog for info and articles on marine electrical systems, projects and more. psystems.ca



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