

Favorites

The business tools you can't work without

VOIP With Benefits

Ipevo Free.1 Skype USB phone; \$30;
www.ipevo.com



BAMBI FRANCISCO
Columnist,
MarketWatch

I love using VOIP to save money on phone calls, but I don't like being tethered to my computer via a clunky headset. I need all the functionality of a proper desk phone, which is why I use Ipevo's Skype phone—it makes VOIP much more useful. I just plug the phone into the USB port of my computer and dial as if I'm using a regular handset. It's lightweight and comfortable, and it provides all the features I expect, such as speed dial, volume adjustment, and a mute button. The sound quality is great, and because the phone is so compact, it's easy to take with me on the road. An extra bonus: While many VOIP phones work only with PCs, Ipevo offers software that makes this one Mac-compatible.

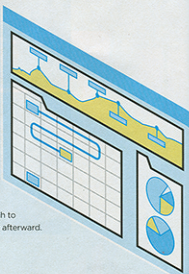
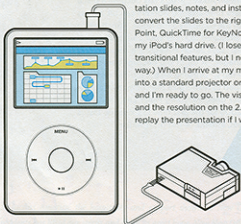
Pocket Presenter

Apple iPod (with video); from \$300 for 30GB; www.apple.com



JOHN RICHEY
Senior applications
engineer, Intel

Everyone knows about the new video iPod, but I've been using a simple hack that turns mine into a very useful tool for doing business. Instead of lugging my laptop to meetings, I use my iPod to store my presentation slides, notes, and instructional materials. I simply convert the slides to the right format—JPEG for PowerPoint, QuickTime for KeyNote—and load the files onto my iPod's hard drive. (I lose some of PowerPoint's flashy transitional features, but I never much liked those anyway.) When I arrive at my meeting, I just plug the iPod into a standard projector or high-definition television, and I'm ready to go. The visual effect is essentially the same, and the resolution on the 2.5-inch screen is even good enough to replay the presentation if I want to review details with people afterward.



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