

WIRED STAFF MAGAZINE 11.01.05 12:00 PM

# TEST

## THANKS FOR THE MEMORY

**Tapeless camcorders** are the future of home video. They're smaller and lighter than MiniDV recorders, and they store digital footage on hard drives or flash memory instead of fussy tape. But lackluster image quality and high prices have prevented their proliferation. The latest lot still has a few kinks, but the picture quality is better and they come in a wide range of shapes and sizes. – *Roy Furchgott*

### WHAT TO LOOK FOR

**Memory** Removable flash cards and internal memory can fill up quickly. Check how much footage a camera stores (the top pick here has 30 gigs!) to avoid having to offload clips to a PC every 20 minutes. **PC compatibility** These shooters often use nonstandard file formats. If you edit video on a computer, find out how easy it is to get footage into your editing app. **Pixel**

**overload** Don't fixate on high pixel counts. The size of the CCD matters more, as bigger imaging chips capture more light. Look for ones that are 0.17 inch or larger.

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**HOW WE TESTED** **Zoom lens** We zoomed in on brickwork roughly 100 yards from the camera, looking for crisp detail. **Artificial light** We shot objects in a room lit by two fluorescent tubes and an incandescent bulb to see how the cams fared in poor lighting. **Action shots** We recorded dogs playing fetch to gauge whether the autofocus could keep up. **White balance** We panned a white-walled room hung with art, looking for color casting and accurate representations of blues, greens, and reds.



**JVC GZ-MG30 A whopping 30-gig** internal hard drive – it holds over seven hours of high-quality video – means you'll rarely run out of room. The 25X zoom lens gobbles up light for image clarity that rivals some MiniDV cams, and though it's larger than a flash memory model, the 3 x 3 x 4-inch frame stows easily in a backpack. It skimps somewhat on automatic features (for

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example, there are only three white-balance presets: sunny, cloudy, halogen), but the manual mode gives ambitious videographers tons of tweaking options. Unfortunately, files are stored in an unusual format – you can only edit them with the included PC and Mac software.

**Wired:** Oodles of recording capacity. Long 25X optical zoom. Accepts SD cards for added storage. Five-hour battery pack available. **Tired:** Nonstandard video files. One-hour battery. Works with a Mac, but not well. \$900, [www.jvc.com](http://www.jvc.com)  `data:image/s3,anthropic-data-us-east-2/u/marker_images/0001/1101/1011/00010000/juhan-chandramapper-v2new-0513/5217db1ff6797b89209e9818b2d9f26b.jpg</antml:image>

**Sanyo VPC-C5 Wired:** Small enough (3 x 4 x 1 inch) to fit in a T-shirt pocket. Shoots stills while recording video. Decent MPEG-4 quality. Compatible with iMovie! **Tired:** Captures just five minutes of high-quality video with included 128-meg SD card (gets 42 minutes with 1-gig card). Noisier images than MiniDV. \$600, [www.sanyo.com](http://www.sanyo.com) `<img`

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**Samsung SC-X105L Wired:** Second, remote lens and weather-resistant case ideal for extreme sports – capture that nosedive on the double

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black-diamond trail. **Tired:** Only 512 megs (about 30 minutes) of onboard memory. Muted colors. Downloading its unusual compression format to PC can be challenging. \$600,

www.samsung.com data:image/s3,anthropic-data-us-east-2/u/marker_images/0110/0110/0110/11000010/juhan-chandramapper-v2new-0513/bd565d75af262c798937c38ee5995f58.jpg</antml:image>

### **CVS One-Time-Use Video Camcorder Wired:**

Impulse buy. Records 20 minutes of merrymaking, which you get later on a DVD from the one-hour processor. **Tired:** As the name says: single-use videocam. Grainy images.

In-camera editing is strictly last-in, first-out. \$13 processing fee. Limited retail availability. \$30 (plus fee), www.cvs.com ■■■■■

## POWER MONGERS

**Keep pocket gear running** when you're miles from a socket. The solar panels in these packs harness the sun to power your cell phone, GPS, or PSP. Here's hoping the next rev runs laptops, too. – *Mathew Honan*



**Voltaic Backpack Day or night,** the Voltaic keeps portables going and going. Three solar panels deliver 4 watts of power – our cell phone went from dead to nearly 40 percent charged in just

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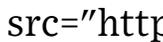
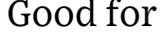
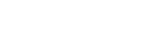


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an hour. And when the sun disappears, a built-in Li-ion battery pack takes over. The combo kept our MP3 player singing all day on cloudy Tahoe slopes. Comfy molded straps and a wide cargo hold round out a near-perfect pack. **Wired:** Charges two devices at the same time. Connects using one of 12 plug tips (including USB). Water bladder pouch. **Tired:** Doesn't build charge well in cloudy conditions or when moving. Rigid solar panels. \$229, [www.voltaicsystems.com](http://www.voltaicsystems.com)



**Reware Juice Bag Wired:** 6.3-watt output – our phone was 70 percent full after an hour. Big, 12 x 12-inch flexible panel catches light on cloudy days. Works as backpack or messenger bag. Ample storage. **Tired:** Car cigarette lighter-style socket only. NiMH battery pack sold separately. Charges one device at a time. Not as easy on your shoulders as the Voltaic. \$200,

[www.rewarestore.com](http://www.rewarestore.com)    
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   




**Eclipse Solar Gear Reactor Wired:** Inexpensive. Good for emergency use or extending battery life. Comes in two colors: blue or black. **Tired:** A meager 2.7 watts – our cell phone was only 25 percent full after five hours of charging. No

battery pack backup. Charges one device at a time. Cigarette lighter socket only. Large rigid panel feels extremely fragile. \$129, [www.eclipsesolargear.com](http://www.eclipsesolargear.com) data:image/s3,anthropic-data-us-east-2/u/marker_images/1010/1110/0101/10010000/juhan-chandramapper-v2new-0513/3a6e398effff53dda90ff872c29f9a0e.jpg</antml:image>

It's the incredible shrinking Game Boy! Each iteration of Nintendo's Game Boy Advance gets smaller and cuter. The latest, the Game Boy Micro, is as much a fashion accessory as a piece of consumer electronics. At 4 x 2 x 1 inch and 3 ounces, it's closer in size and shape to the iPod mini than the earlier GBA SP. And it swipes the idea of swappable faceplates from style-conscious cell phones. It doesn't offer any functional advances over previous models, but unlike those, it doesn't look like a kids' toy, either - until people get close enough to see you're playing WarioWare. - *Chris Baker*

**Color screen** The 2-inch screen is two-thirds the size of other GBA displays. But its resolution is the same (240 x 160), and its new active matrix LCD is brighter. **Reverse compatibility** The Micro plays all 701 GBA titles but doesn't play any cartridges from the enormous (over 1,000 titles) library of original Game Boy games. Boo! **Battery life** This widget is a camel when it

comes to electricity. Plugged in overnight, it gave us a good 12 hours of play – two more than a GBA SP.

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**Wired:** Fits easily in a shirt pocket. Unlike GBA SP, it has a built-in jack for headphones. **Tired:** 2-inch screen can be fatiguing. Doesn't work with some peripherals for older GBAs. Needs a converter to link up with older GBAs for multiple players. \$100, [www.nintendo.com](http://www.nintendo.com)



**Video Converts These smart players** bring standard DVD video closer to hi-def, boosting resolution by averaging the source's real pixels to create more as filler. Upconverted video isn't as sharp as true HD, but it beats progressive scan and will help you get your money's worth out of that new big-screen TV. – *Cathy Lu*



**Samsung DVD-HD850 Wired:** Smooth motion and accurate skin tones, with the least amount of grain. Jog wheel on remote for moving frame by frame through scenes. **Tired:** Doesn't play Super Audio or DVD-Audio discs. \$150, [www.samsung.com](http://www.samsung.com)

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**Sony DVP-NS975V Wired:** Vivid colors and

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great contrast. Remembers where you left off on up to 40 discs. Plays Super Audio CDs. **Tired:** Picture looks a bit grainy. Some functions sluggish. Supports MP3 discs only; no WMAs. \$300, [www.sonystyle.com](http://www.sonystyle.com) ■■■■■



**Toshiba SD-5980 Wired:** Includes memory card slots and an HD JPEG viewer. Remote has glow-in-the-dark buttons. **Tired:** Muted colors and lack of luster color contrast. Doesn't handle high-resolution audio discs. \$200, [www.toshiba.com](http://www.toshiba.com) data:image/s3,anthropic-data-us-east-2/u/marker_images/0011/1001/0001/00101110/juhan-chandramapper-v2new-0513/07052025980caff4bc4f10535c6402eb.jpg</antml:image>

**LG LDX-514 Wired:** Includes DVD player, VCR, and two multiformat memory card slots. Sharp picture and accurate colors. **Tired:** Tech support had to help us get the upconvert working. Picture slightly grainy. No hi-res audio. \$230, [www.lge.com](http://www.lge.com) ■■■■■

**Let Them Eat Steak** Hey, meat lovers: How about a thick, juicy rib eye delivered to your doorstep? We had ours shipped overnight from online purveyors and then grilled them to perfection. – *Philip Ferrato*



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**Lobel's Wired:** Dry-aged rib eyes arrived the next day, as ordered, and grilled up with a melting, buttery texture and the deep, rich flavor you expect from aged beef. Not frozen.

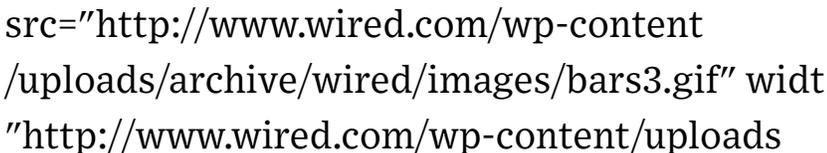
**Tired:** Bland Web site. Somewhat pricey. \$49 for two 12-ounce steaks, [www.lobels.com](http://www.lobels.com) 



**Niman Ranch Wired:** Exceptional steaks with a bright, clean flavor. Humanely treated steers are fed only organic, hormone-free nosh.

Easy-to-navigate and informative Web site has a good selection of cuts. Not frozen. **Tired:** "Overnight" shipping took two days. \$40 for two 12-ounce steaks, [www.nimanranch.com](http://www.nimanranch.com)



**Omaha Steaks Wired:** Sells everything: beef, seafood, or prepared entrees. Nice customer service. **Tired:** Food comes frozen. Thin, unattractive rib eyes, mushy with a metallic aftertaste. Cluttered Web site. Expensive, and overnight still took two days. \$73 for four 8-ounce steaks, [www.omahasteaks.com](http://www.omahasteaks.com) 

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## PLAY

Gang of Four Remixes It Up

OMG! I Text-Messaged the Backstreet Boys!

Sound Advice

Test-Driving Xbox 360

My Travels With Spidey

Dance Like You've Never Danced Before

The Wicked Web

The 3-D Sky Is Falling! The 3-D Sky Is Falling!

The Final Cut Pro

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