

# Gadgets for Dad

**Y**ou could go with the typical necktie, set of golf balls, or coffee mug this Father's Day, but doesn't Dad deserve a little more? This year, with this guide through the coolest Father's Day gifts on the planet, you can give your old man the 007 treatment.



**A Slice of Life**  
The **Swing Groover** works on the basic principle that practicing your swing inside generally leads to something getting broken. Line up the club of your choice, on the thick, sturdy turf, select one of three different ball

heights, and swing away. This handy device, for righties or lefties, not only monitors the distance you would have hit the ball, but also how straight it would have gone. The solid ball provides a real feeling unmatched by most golf simulators, so Dad will feel like he's teeing up on the 18th at Harbour Town. At [www.brookstone.com](http://www.brookstone.com).

## It's All in the Cards

Starting with strong sales on the Internet, the **AutoWallet** is one of the fastest-growing gadget ideas around, and it's perfect for dads. Weighing in at a mere three ounces, this sturdy device holds six cards, whether credit, IDs, or phone cards. Designed to fit easily into pockets, this little wonder is only 2 1/2 inches wide. Its tough, anodized metal finish and poly-plastic construction ensure that this gadget will hold up under the most extreme conditions. Get it at [www.autowallet.com](http://www.autowallet.com).



PHOTO COURTESY AUTOWALLET

## Measure of a Man

We've all been there. You've finally managed to get the tape measure to stay in place and just as you reach for the pencil to record the measurement,



PHOTO BY BARRY KAUFMAN

SWISH, the whole thing's retracted. No big deal, this wall was 13-1/2 feet. Wait, that was the foyer wall. Or was it the dining room ceiling? The already overloaded memory of a dad with a project can only handle so much, and the measurement is forgotten. At this point in time, one generally covers the children's ears. Fortunately, this handy gadget can save dad the aggravation with the push of a button. Simply speak your measurements on the digital recorder and play back sequentially when you don't have your hands full. The tape runs a full 16 feet and the measure comes with a spring steel belt clip. See [www.brookstone.com](http://www.brookstone.com).

## Remote Possibility

Since the dawn of television, Dads around the world have been charged with one sacred mission: hold the remote. Until recently, this time-honored tradition was only used for control of the television, stereo, VCR, and DVD player. New remotes, however, take control to the next level. The **Crestron ML-500**, pictured, can be extended beyond home theater to control lighting, climate, security, and anything else in the home you can dream of. With just a few flicks of the thumb, Dad can turn down the A/C, dim the lights, and turn on reruns of Gunsmoke. The backlit LCD screen gives a menu-by-menu breakdown of what you're controlling, and the 200-foot range ensures that Dad's in control no matter where he is. See [www.crestron.com](http://www.crestron.com).



PHOTO COURTESY CRESTRON

## Well-Organized

Growing up, your dad always had the right tool for the job. Whether it was a Phillips-head screwdriver, a ball-peen hammer or a power sander, somehow he always had exactly what was needed to fix anything from a broken bike chain to a failed alternator. Of course, by the time he was finished navigating through a garage full of shelves and drawers looking for his tools, something else had broken. This year, make life a little easier on Dad with a rolling project center. Models are available with drawers for screws, nuts, bolts, wiring, and assorted bits and pieces, corkboard siding for holding the larger tools, and in the case of the Craftsman five-drawer model pictured, [www.sears.com](http://www.sears.com), cord wrap and a cupholder for Dad's beverage of choice.  
— Barry Kaufman



PHOTO COURTESY SEARS