

# Chicago Tribune

## Gadgets for the mobile student



enTourage eDGe dualbook

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*How do you transition from work to class and back again? With the right stuff, of course. Here are some innovative devices designed to save you time and keep you connected while on the go.*

### **enTourage eDGe dualbook**

Talk about multitasking. This revolutionary new laptop is the first-ever "dualbook." It opens like a book with a screen on each side. One screen acts as an e-reader that allows you to read e-textbooks and jot down class notes. The other side is an LCD screen that lets you browse the Web, e-mail, IM, watch videos and listen to MP3s.

The developer, enTourage Systems, Inc., launched this busy little device at this year's Consumer Electronics Show. The company information touts it as an all-in-one solution for students. It even comes with an automatic document backup to company's servers. Other nifty facts: It folds 360 degrees and can orient its displays laptop- or book-style; it weighs 2.5 pounds and is about the size of a sheet of notebook paper; it comes in five slick case colors. Tech specs: 4Gig memory; Wi-Fi and Bluetooth; SD card slot; 2 USB ports and more. Note: This is not a Windows machine. It uses the Linux system and runs **Google** Android. That means you have access to myriad Google Android apps. The enTourage comes with Documents To Go software, so you can view and work with **Microsoft** Office documents and Adobe PDF files. Price: \$499-\$539 depending on color. Visit [entourageedge.com](http://entourageedge.com) or [bestbuy.com](http://bestbuy.com) to order.

### **PC/Mac compatible software**

Are you a Mac or a PC? Thanks to Parallels you can be both. This software is a lifesaver if you love your Mac but need to be compatible with Windows users, too. It allows you to share files and run Windows and thousands of PC applications without even having to restart your computer. You can move files, folders, images and data back and forth between the Windows and Mac systems as necessary, which makes working on group projects and communicating with professors (and bosses) less of a **headache**. Parallels Desktop 5 for Mac is compatible with the Snow Leopard and Windows 7 operating systems. It is available at Apple stores or at [parallels.com](http://parallels.com) for \$79.99.

### **Insulated lunch box**

Navigate the urban jungle with your lunch or dinner intact in the REI Go Box cooler. Closed-cell foam provides efficient insulation to keep food and beverages cool for hours. The heavy-duty PEVA liner is waterproof and easy to wipe clean. The zippered exterior pocket holds utensils and napkins. Grab it by its web handle and pop it into your backpack, tote or bike bag. The Go Box cooler comes in large, medium and small, depending on your appetite. It also comes in multiple colors; \$7.50-\$9.50. Available at REI and [rei.com](http://rei.com).

### **Affordable laptop carrying case**

Prices for laptop cases are all over the place, which is odd because they all offer basically the same thing: a safe tote for your computer, plus pockets for the peripherals and a few other necessities. If you want something basic and are not brand-conscious, the V7 line has a basic black and gray line of cases that have a sleek, understated look. There is a case for every laptop size, with top- and front-loading options, starting at less than \$20. The V7 cases are available through [staples.com](http://staples.com), [newegg.com](http://newegg.com), [buy.com](http://buy.com), [walmart.com](http://walmart.com), [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) and more, and are also sold in some campus bookstores.

### **Cell phone signal booster**

Ever wish someone would invent something that could eliminate dead zones and dropped calls as you drive from place to place? The makers of the YX230 **cell phone** signal booster claim it does just that. The YX230 is part of the zBoost family of products by Wi-Ex. It captures the signal outside your car and amplifies it on the inside. Slide the base unit under your seat or in the front console, and plug it into the cigarette lighter/power outlet. Then place the small interior and exterior antennas and you're ready for interruption-free calls. The company information says the device supports multiple users simultaneously and works with almost all phones and carriers. Retails for \$179; search for an electronics dealer near you that sells the device at [locator.wi-ex.com](http://locator.wi-ex.com).

### **Multipoint Bluetooth headset**

What makes the Jabra Stone headset different than your average Bluetooth headset? Multipoint technology. When Bluetooth headsets first came out, you could connect your headset to only one device at a time. Now, multipoint technology allows you to switch calls from one device to another instantly without disconnecting, or use two at a time. The space-age looking Stone fits neatly into a portable charging unit, which can run on USB or AC power. Features include answer call, end call, reject call, voice dialing, last number redial, call waiting, call hold and volume control. Jabra headsets are available

in cell phone shops, electronics retailers, office supply stores and online retailers. The Jabra Stone retails for about \$129.99 and comes in black or white.