



December 27th, 2012 - Rod Lott

## [Building a better you](#)

Ring in the new year with these five products that may make life just a little bit easier

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### **zBoost SOHO yX545 Cell Phone Booster Wi-Ex \$399**



I had problems at home. Luckily, they related to my smartphone signal: When upstairs, any calls from my wife would cut out, if not drop completely. And you don't want your wife thinking you've hung up on her. So we installed the zBoost SOHO — not without expended effort, I should note — and our in-home signal improved as promised. The MSRP is pricey, but you can find it for half that with a little online digging.



### **CarMD Vehicle Health System CarMD.com Corp \$119.85**

Although I haven't had to put it to real use yet, this gadget is all kinds of genius. Plug it in your car for a diagnosis of engine problems — even ones you don't realize are problems yet. Even better, it researches repair costs for you, to help avoid being ripped off by greedy mechanics. Now if only we could get one for our own bodies ...

### **BladeBuddy Martell \$19.99**



As my nick-ravaged neck can attest, blades on razors don't stay sharp long enough. The BladeBuddy fixes that, so I can forgive its stupid-sounding name. It extends the life of the blade for months, and with nearly zero work on your part. The simple, eco-friendly device more than pays for its inexpensive self.



### **Smile Sciences Teeth Whitening Pen Smile Sciences \$78**

Coffee addicts, rejoice! Cheaper than a trip to the dentist, the Smile Sciences Teeth Whitening Pen works in a week, as promised. It's pricey, but I saw better results from it than from Crest whitening strips, and far better than whitening toothpastes, which I'm not convinced make any difference.

### **Phosphor World Time Sport art Technology unlimited \$99**



I gauge the value of a new watch by how many people notice it on day one; the Phosphor World Time Sport is a winner. The silicon band is comfortable without sticking to your skin, but the face is what I like best, because it utilizes the "swipe" technology of iPhones to change display modes. It's also easy to read without sacrificing coolness.