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**3 FREE
MYSTERY GIFTS
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RD LIVING > TECHNOLOGY

Perfect Pitch

It won't change the world, but it will change your voice. Canada-based IVL Technologies' On-Key Karaoke Hand Held Player looks like a simple microphone, but as you warble into it, a microprocessor "corrects" your pitch.

The idea came to IVL's president Phil Scott in 1983 when he took up the flute.

Frustrated by his own tin ear, he conceived an instrument-pitch detector that transformed musical notes into digital format. It didn't sell well, but it spurred Scott to search for other applications, including pitch detectors and harmonizers for commercial karaoke systems.

"Karaoke's the modern equivalent of the family singing around the piano," says Scott.

-Andy Holloway, in *Canadian Business*



Max the Micro!

To use your microwave oven even more effectively:

- Cook in round vessels. Rectangular ones are less effective because they come closer to the power source (on the oven's side) as the dish rotates, and may heat food unevenly, even burn some portions.
- Microwaves are more evenly distributed on a flat plate, and therefore cooking time is reduced.
- Use several smaller containers, instead of one large one, to speed up the cooking process. This way, you can also simultaneously hand out a number of small servings to family or guests.

CDs Come Clean

Be it the Beatles CD you play in the car, the precious Hrithik Roshan DVD you got for your birthday or the CD-Rom with the snaps from your last holiday, chances are you have no idea what to do if the toddler in your life leaves her mark on any of them, let alone how to care for a disc at the best of times. Some tips from the Optical Storage Technology Association:

1. Always hold CDs and DVDs by the outside edge or the centre hole.
2. Store discs in plastic cases in a box, drawer or cabinet away from light, heat, dust and humidity.
3. Blow off any dust that settles on discs to keep it out of your player.
4. Clean discs using a soft, dry, lint-free cloth or camera lens tissue. Gently wipe from the centre to the outer edge in a straight line; do not rub in circles or around the disc. CD cleaning fluids may help to remove sticky fingerprints.

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