

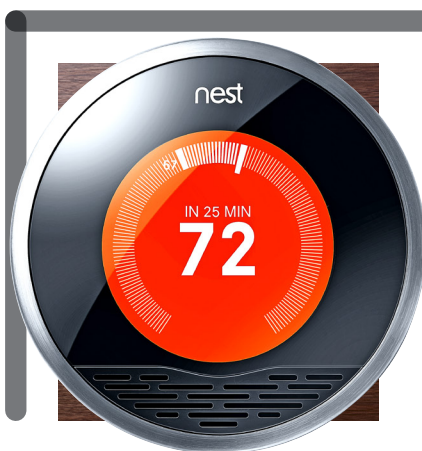


**1 POCKET TOOLBOX**  
 Veteran knife-maker Ed Van Hoy and partner Tom Stokes designed the **CRKT Multi-Tool 9200 (\$50)** to fill in for a loaded toolbox. For an electrician, there's a utility blade to cut drywall, a (kinda thick-bladed) saw for studs, two screwdrivers to mount a box, and a wire stripper. "I like to build stuff that a guy could go out there and use," Van Hoy says. We especially like the swift, automatic spring-loaded screwdrivers.

**2 METALWORKING MEDLEY**  
 The **Multiplaz 3500 (\$1995)** does it all at a metal shop. Applied to steel, aluminum, copper, iron, and bronze, the unit uses water and alcohol to weld, solder, braze, harden, cleanse, or cut. The tool replaces a welder, a gas torch, a plasma cutter, nibble shears, a jigsaw, a blow lamp, and an inverter welder. But that's it!

**3 NEW TWIST ON A GREAT GRINDER**  
 In the age of plastic pepper mills, a grinder like the **Peugeot Daman u>Select (\$60)** is worth an investment. In this new model, which does away with the central shaft, two sets of case-hardened steel teeth guide and hold each peppercorn before it's cracked. The two-stage grinding process releases the pepper's oils while also protecting the tool against corrosion and wear.

**4 FADE IT, SHAPE IT, SHAVE IT**  
 Gillette videotapes more than 48,000 guys shaving at its labs every year, using cameras that record the cutting action of five blades at once. The research has paid off with the **Gillette Fusion ProGlide Styler (\$20)**. The handle accommodates the razor or a AA-powered Braun trimmer head. The pair can be swapped to perfect a sideburn edge or banish a five o'clock shadow. — H.S.



## 3 Months With the Nest Thermostat

**BACKGROUND:** The brainchild of ex-Apple engineers, the Nest aims to bring HVAC into the 21st century. The setup was intuitive, but a pesky wiring fault took 3 hours to correct.

**PERFORMANCE:** Users adjust the temperature with a dial surrounding a color display. In a week the device learns your schedule. It has proximity sensors to detect your presence. A Wi-Fi connection means it can be controlled via the Web or smartphones.

**CONCLUSION:** Nest's user interface is clean and simple, and it affords you a mind-boggling amount of control. But at \$250, a Nest is much pricier than a standard thermostat. The promise of the Nest is an efficient system that you don't need to think about, but in my experience the exact opposite proved true. As the Nest anticipated my needs, I constantly second-guessed it, wondering, would I really have wanted the furnace to kick on right now? — GLENN DERENE