

# Coverage report

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## Gadget fix

Save your data in a small and smart USB stick, tap into a virtual keyboard, shine a light on some sentimental objects, coast in a wooden car, try on a tough jacket and boost your broadband

### GAME ON

**Tyrian Lannister flash drive**  
 He has a mind like a steel trap, so where safer to store your precious data than in a USB stick shaped like Tyrian Lannister from Game of Thrones? With the long-awaited series six hitting television screens this month, get in on Game of Thrones fever with this novelty 16GB USB flash drive. The stick itself is in Tyrian's Machiavellian head – complete with facial scars – and his tunic-clad body is the cover. It is Mac and PC-compatible.  
 £13.99, [thecheap.com](http://thecheap.com)



### THE BOAT IN FRONT

**Toyota Setsumi wooden concept car**  
 The Setsumi is being hailed as this year's most unique concept car from a big manufacturer – and it's a work of art. The boat-like creation is made almost entirely from wood, using Japanese cedar and birch, and was built without the use of any nails or screws. It features a "100-year meter" that will tell your ancestors how did the machine is, and it debuts tomorrow at Milan Design Week. *Et cetera*, [toyota.co.uk](http://toyota.co.uk)



### BRUTE SUIT

**Condition Black armored jacket**  
 With a name taken from the military slang for the physiological state induced by life-or-death situations – when your body is in flight or fight mode – the Condition Black mountain sports and adventure jacket is like battle armour for serious snowsports or mountain bike races. In the event of an accident, magnetic shoulder pockets and glow-in-the-dark instructions encourage you to adopt the fetal position, keeping your internal organs warm, and it has ceramic armour tough enough to survive multiple tumbles at speeds of up to 120kph. *Et cetera*, [voilebak.com](http://voilebak.com)

### JUST MY TYPE

**Thumbs Up laser keyboard and powerbank**  
 It's not always convenient to lug a laptop around, but we always have our phones with us. That's how gadget designer Thumbs Up came up the laser keyboard and powerbank device, aimed at techies and writers on the road who want to travel light. Connect on your commute with built-in Bluetooth, and sync up to your phone or tablet and use that travel time effectively. The pocket-sized device is wireless with a traditional Qwerty keyboard and 400 characters. There's also the option for USB connection. Any flat surface will host the red laser keys and, voila, your writing needs are taken care of. *Et cetera*, [prezzybox.com](http://prezzybox.com)



TOP GADGET

### AN EAR

**Illuminated bell jar**  
 We all have cherished objects or sentimental knick-knacks but collectors struggle to find a suitable place to share them with visitors. These favourite items can now be showcased gorgeously in your home, displayed as art in an illuminated glass bell jar. The hand-blown glass dome, 200mm in diameter and 250mm in height, sits on a recycled wooden base. USB-powered, the device comes with a power adaptor included and claims to be the only bell jar in the world with built-in illumination. *Et cetera*, [suck.co.uk](http://suck.co.uk)



### MORE POWER TO YOU

**Boosty broadband booster**  
 A new service claims to give users broadband speeds up to three times faster than home connections by tapping it up with your 3G or 4G smartphone. The Boosty box harnesses the power of both to create a faster and better connection. The small, bright router plugs into your home broadband router and can be controlled and monitored by an app. It uses mobile phone data only when necessary, to avoid shocking bills. *Et cetera*, [boosty.com](http://boosty.com)



## SPOKES PERSON

Richard Oakley



**T**wo questions to begin with. Why did nobody tell me that there was a channel hidden in my Sky box dedicated to cycling, and why do so many adults suddenly one day realise that we haven't been on a bike in months, or even years?

The issues may not seem related, but bear with me. Flashback to a few weeks ago: I was searching through the seemingly endless realm of moody dreadful channels I pay an extortionate amount for, when I discovered no.464, the succinctly named Bike. "What fresh magnificence is this?" I asked, watching a nicely paced documentary in which various people speak eloquently about all things cycling. On Googling it I discovered that this is a newish channel available on Sky for pedal-heads like me. Bike is the first TV channel dedicated to cycling and to anyone who thinks the world doesn't need a TV channel dedicated to cycling, I say pugh. We already have channels on food, true crime, Manchester United, a gay called Dave, Chelsea, Formula One and even the Atlantic, so why not a station that focuses on the simplest and most beautiful machine mankind has ever created? Bike was launched in Italy in 2012 and has 1m regular viewers, according to Filippo Mori Ubaldini, the channel's media executive. Mr Ubaldini, you can make that 1,000,001.



Free-wheeling with Sky

As Bike aficionados go, I'm still on stabilisers, but I'm starting to get a grip with the channel's offering of bike-building documentaries, road shows, road-racing and amusingly badly dubbed programmes about mountain bike trails in European resorts I will never get to visit. While some of the shows could do with some production polish, many make for compelling viewing and it's fantastic to know that when there is nothing on channels 101 to 463, channel 464 is just a click away. There are always bikes to look at and, for me, that is all that matters. Apart from making my monthly Sky direct debit that bit more bearable to watch as it free-wheels away from my account, Bike has reminded me that I own three, and that I don't use them nearly enough. It's why I hired a car to drive to Belfast then spent a morning hammering around the short but challenging trails of Barren Demesne on my mountain bike. It's also why I'm back cycling to work, even though I live just a 10-minute walk from my desk. By the time I get my bike out of the shed, through the house, out the door, sit on it and pedal it to the office, I could have made it there on foot. The fact is that I just love cycling and I'm glad a television channel, of all things, reminded me of that.