

HOT 'N HIP THINGS

4 A SLAMMIN' HOLIDAY!!

It's that time of year again, Black Beat readers! Whether it's Christmas, Kwanzaa, or Chanukah your particular family celebrates, this is a holiday period for everybody! Along with the opportunity to get together with extended family members, observe religious tradition and score a few elaborately prepared meals, is your chance to add those items on your holiday wish list you've been dying to get your hands on all year. Whether you've been "naughty or nice," you know exactly what you want. Or do you? Just in case you haven't turned in the final draft of your holiday wish list just yet — perhaps you're waiting to peep what hot 'n hip holiday items that'll keep that smile on your faces well into the new year.

HIGH-TECH FLOSSIN'

T-Mobile Sidekick II
www.t-mobile.com

You've probably caught the likes of G-Unit, Lindsey Lohan, Jay-Z and Jessica Simpson rockin' a Sidekick and now you can floss like the stars with the highly improved update, the Sidekick II. This compact



wonder functions as a cell, two-way, PDA, and full VGA camera with flash. If that isn't enough, the Sidekick II also features a wide selection of high-quality ring tones ("Is that Usher singing in your pocket?"), video games, Yahoo! Messenger and the ability to send v-cards via e-mail. This new edition is 25 percent thinner, has an extra hour of battery life (bumping it up to 4.5 hours of talk time)

and features interchangeable bumpers, so it'll always match your hot outfit of the day. You may not be a platinum recording artist, but who's to say that you can't fake like you are?

Bose SoundDock Digital Music System

www.bose.com/sounddock

Admit it, you love your Apple iPod more than your significant other, which is why the next time you go out shoppin' for gifts, you're getting a Bose SoundDock all for yourself.

Bose has proved once again that the Apple iPod is probably the most convenient piece of music gadgetry ever created — ever. With this gorgeous system (that perfectly matches the iPod color scheme), all you have to do is dock your iPod or iPod mini and let it charge as you listen to your digital music collection — all from a distance, with the included infrared remote. No extra cables, connections or adapters are needed.

That's right, toss that old clunky CD stereo system and put this digital beauty in its place.



Have You Finished Your Wish List Yet?



Nintendo DS

www.nintendo.com/ds

With Nintendo's hot new portable still arriving fresh off the assembly lines, one thing is certain: you might love it even more than your GameBoy Advance SP. Why? Because two screens are better than one, silly! Perhaps Nintendo's most innovative system to date, the DS not only features dual screens (hence the name, DS), but a host of other features that include voice recognition, touch-screen input and wireless communication. This means multiple perspectives in games, wireless multiplayer gaming and the ability to exchange text and drawings with other DS owners using the system's built-in PictoChat program.

Sony New PS2 & PSP

www.us.playstation.com

Not to be outdone by longtime competitor Nintendo, Sony has stepped up their game by literally shrinking their game systems. The first system is a totally overhauled version of their insanely popular PlayStation 2. This time around, the system uses the same controllers and still plays the same games and movie DVDs, but is about 50% smaller than the original system — with a built-in Ethernet port. If you don't already have a PS2 or wish to replace your beat-up system, go with this stylishly anorexic model. Next on their list of goodies is Sony's arrival on the portable scene that's been dominated by Nintendo for so many years. The PlayStation Portable (PSP) features fluid 3D graphics, controls similar to that of a PS2, USB and wireless LAN input, as well as an option to use Sony's Memory Stick PRO D. With the ability to stuff up to 1.8 gigs worth of media on its Universal Media Discs, this thin, sleek system just might be the GameBoy killer that Sony hopes it to be.



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FASHIONABLE FIGURES

Mezco Scarface

www.mezco.net

Say hello to my little (plastic) friend. *Scarface*'s infamous Cuban gangsta Tony Montana is probably the single most quoted character in the history of the rap game, and now he's available as both a 10" roto-cast figure and more lifelike cold-cast busts and statues. Mezco kept it on point with their Run DMC line of figures and this is no different, with each figure depicting a different scene from the now classic Brian DePalma film. Always wanted your very own cigar smokin', money laundering, machine gun-totin' Al Pacino? Well, now here's your chance. Remember, the world is yours!

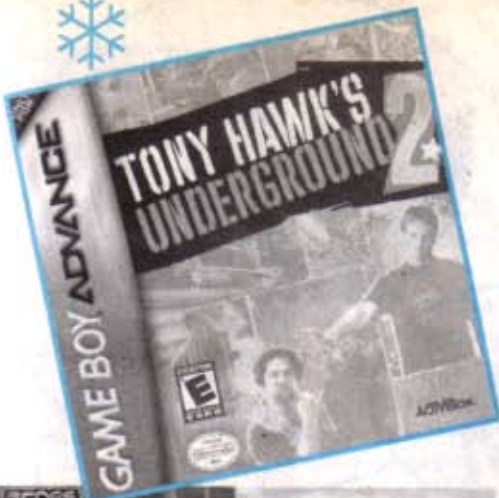


Citizen Urban Icon

www.urbanicon.net

Remember the day your friend told you that, "One day, figures with 18-points of articulation are going to have hotter clothes than us," and you laughed it off? Well, quit laughing, because this line of 10" tall graf-styled figures comes decked out in the hottest urban gear from the likes of *Ecko Unltd*, *Johnny Blaze*, *akademiks*, *Technics*, *esdjco* and *DC Shoes*. All the clothes are real (to scale, of course), right down to their boxers and the logos on their sneakers. Better get your fashion sense in gear, 'cause this is no longer a laughing matter.





CHARACTER LICENSING DONE RIGHT

Tony Hawk's Underground 2
X-Men Legends
www.activision.com

Longtime video gamers know that whenever a gaming company acquires what could be a great license, they blow the opportunity to produce an equally great game. Luckily, Activision knows exactly what they're doing when it comes to putting their big licenses to good use and have scored two winners in these blazin' hot titles. The *Tony Hawk* franchise continues in grand fashion with this second installment of the popular *Underground* series. Featuring even more expansive maps to explore, you join either Team Hawk or Team Bam as you cause havoc on foot, using your skateboards and other crazy vehicles all over real-life cities. Tag up, slap your team's sticker or just compete in traditional *Tony Hawk* skate events. As always, the soundtrack will keep your head noddin' with a collection of dope hip-hop and punk-rock tunes. *X-Men Legends* puts you in control of everybody's favorite comic book mutants. Recruit a squad of four mutants from a selection of 15 playable X-men in this epic action role-playing game. Put your powers to the test and crush the forces of Magneto and his Brotherhood of Mutants.

Now this is how proper licensing is done!



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DIVALICIOUS STYLIN'

Loop NYC

www.loopnyc.com

Girls, these ain't your mama's accessories. Who needs expensive and boring ol' *Louis Vuitton* when you can have accessories that match your everyday pop-culture lifestyle for just the right price? Loop specializes in products that are "inspired by the grooves and rhythms of New York City — amplified, diversified and simplified." From hip-hop magnets and "Save the Music" clutch bags resembling throwback high tops and keyboards to wallets, bags and plush animal "Snot Boxes," this is one company that's making sure every modern girl is keeping it hip and in the Loop.



Poketo

www.poketo.com

In an attempt to make art and design a part of everyday life, Ted Vadakan and Angie Myung created their company, Poketo. Together, they have created a series of designer wallets and wristbands that feature the spectacular artwork of artists from around the globe. With art that ranges from the abstract to the urban, and a little anime tossed in for good measure, these hot items are perfect for both guys and girls. Poketo has been featured in galleries located in New York, Los Angeles and Japan, so with the whole world taking notice, don't you think it's time you did too?



Custom Rock NYC

www.customrocknyc.com

Styles come and go and come back — this is a known fact. One item that has always been commonplace in urban areas, but seems to sway in-and-out of popularity elsewhere are wearable nameplates. Custom Rock is dedicated to this currently hot trend of customized jewelry. They'll create 14k gold or sterling silver necklaces, earrings and dog collars with the name and text style of your choice. Want your pet Chihuahua's name done in a graffiti or Asian style? You got it. Also, for every piece of jewelry you purchase, a donation is made to the ASPCA. So, you can buy jewelry and save a puppy.



PlayStation 2



Get On Da Mic

www.getondamic.com

Here's a word for all you sucka MCs out there: becoming a hit rap artist has just gotten easier! Those of you too timid to jump head first into a real rap cipher or partake in a legit battle against other rhyme-sayers, can now work your way to the top of the virtual rap game from the comfort of your own home. Endorsed by Ruff Ryder's Jadakiss, and featuring MTV's Sway and DJ Green Lantern, the game allows you to literally grab a mic (available with the game, or separately) and freestyle, spit your way towards cash, whips and yachts — or just battle against your friends.

Get On Da Mic is EyeToy compatible, meaning you can actually watch yourself on screen as you rap to stardom.

Featuring 40 hit cuts from the likes of 'Pac, Missy, Lil' Kim, Snoop, Black Eyed Peas and Sean Paul, this game proves once and for all that dang near anybody can become an MC or femcee.



e city of sin, and
by shorty, I know you

MAKE THE MUSIC WITH YOUR MOUTH (or hands)



The Karaoke Revolution Series

www.karakorevolution.com

Okay, so not everybody wants to be a rapper; some people just love to pretend they're divalicious as they sing along to their favorite pop hits. Luckily for them, there's the *Karaoke Revolution* series. Brought to you by Konami — the company responsible for a few hundred thousand *Dance Dance Revolution* additions

— *Karaoke Revolution*

turns your console gaming system into a full-blown karaoke machine. Between the three available versions of this game, there's possibly every hit from the '70s, '80s and '90s.



Donkey Kong

www.donkeykonga.com

Nintendo's *Mario*, *Link* and *Donkey Kong* must have a great exercise regimen, because like fine wine, they just keep getting better with age. A far cry from the original stiffly animated (but highly addictive) *Donkey Kong* and an altogether different platform from the hit *Donkey Kong Country* series, *Donkey Konga* is a member of the whole rhythm-oriented games craze coming out of Japan

— such as the *Dance Dance Revolution* series. Coupled with the DK Bongo controller, this game is non-stop madness from the very first beat. Pound the bongos along to any number of hit songs from the likes of The Supremes, Devo, Tito Puente, The B-52s, Queen and Earth, Wind & Fire, as well as a few familiar Nintendo themes, and connect up to four pairs of bongos for an all out jam session!



PLUG 'N PLAY

Jakks TV Games

www.jakkstvgames.com

Radica Play TV

www.radicagames.com

Atari Flashback

www.atari.com

Each of these companies specializes in keeping the world addicted to videogames. Just plug these devilish little controllers into your TV and prepare for hour upon thumb-numbing hour of classic gaming action. Jakks TV Games series features collec-

tions that consist of Namco, Atari 2600 and pinball hits such as *Ms. Pac-Man*, *Galaga*, *Breakout* and *Pong*. Radica's Arcade Legends Series collects games such as *Tetris* and some of the hottest Sega Genesis games ever, in controllers that appropriately match the games and systems being emulated. Lastly, Atari has produced its own throwback "system." The *Flashback* is modeled after Atari's classic 7800 system and features two controllers and 20 retro games built right in. If titles such as *Asteroids*, *Millipede*, *Crystal Castles* and *Yars' Revenge* get your heart racing, then you better get that callous remover ready!

