

# Popular Science Magazine September 2008



## POPSCI U ESSENTIAL GEAR

### CARRY A CHARGE

If you're hauling your gadgets around all day, take advantage of the sunshine to charge them up. This solar backpack powers cellphones and media players, and sells for about \$100 less than competitors. **V-Dimension Helius \$130; v-dimension.com**

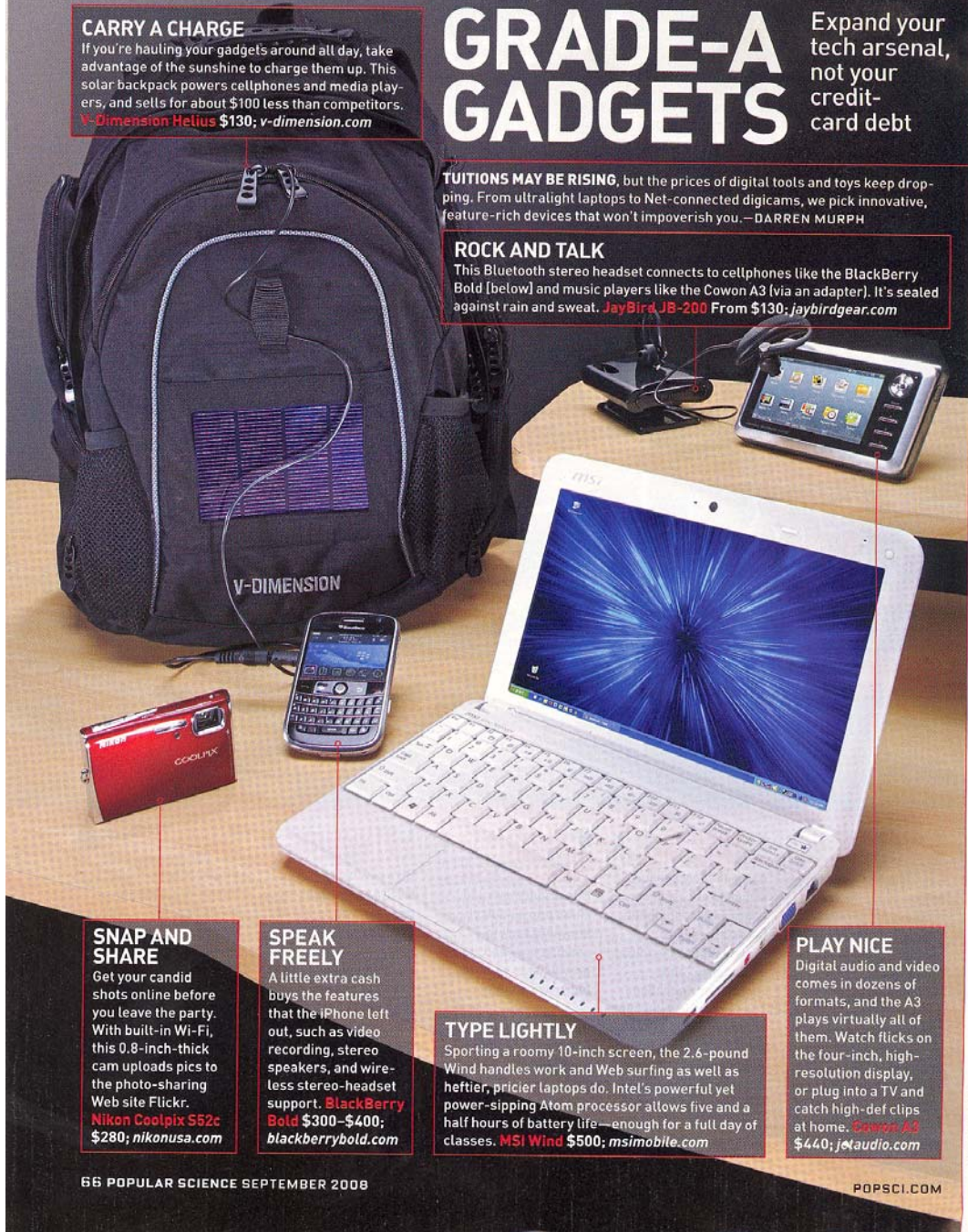
## GRADE-A GADGETS

Expand your tech arsenal, not your credit-card debt

**TUITIONS MAY BE RISING**, but the prices of digital tools and toys keep dropping. From ultralight laptops to Net-connected digicams, we pick innovative, feature-rich devices that won't impoverish you. —DARREN MURPH

### ROCK AND TALK

This Bluetooth stereo headset connects to cellphones like the BlackBerry Bold (below) and music players like the Cowon A3 (via an adapter). It's sealed against rain and sweat. **JayBird JB-200 From \$130; jaybirdgear.com**



### SNAP AND SHARE

Get your candid shots online before you leave the party. With built-in Wi-Fi, this 0.8-inch-thick cam uploads pics to the photo-sharing Web site Flickr. **Nikon Coolpix S52c \$280; nikonusa.com**

### SPEAK FREELY

A little extra cash buys the features that the iPhone left out, such as video recording, stereo speakers, and wireless stereo-headset support. **BlackBerry Bold \$300-\$400; blackberrybold.com**

### TYPE LIGHTLY

Sporting a roomy 10-inch screen, the 2.6-pound Wind handles work and Web surfing as well as heftier, pricier laptops do. Intel's powerful yet power-sipping Atom processor allows five and a half hours of battery life—enough for a full day of classes. **MSI Wind \$500; msimobile.com**

### PLAY NICE

Digital audio and video comes in dozens of formats, and the A3 plays virtually all of them. Watch flicks on the four-inch, high-resolution display, or plug into a TV and catch high-def clips at home. **Cowon A3 \$440; jetaudio.com**