

Fall Harvest Brings Great Game Accessories:

Tricks, Treats, and Plenty of Hardware Awaits Gamers This October

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Why Be Ordinary?

I'm not sure about you, but when I get a new car one of the first mods I do is swap out the "stock" wheels for some styling flashy chrome numbers. Same can be said for my computer—yank out that miserable stock Power Supply and replace it with a super-silent 550 watt brick, and maybe add a 3-cluster analog gauge set on the front panel. Take your puny average 13" arms and pump them up to 18" monsters...oops, sorry—getting a little carried away. Now let's extend this thinking to video game platforms. Yup, over a million PSP's all looking the same with smudgy fingerprints on the pretty black front display area. Well in case you couldn't tell, I couldn't wait to accessorize and pimp out my PSP to differentiate the Muscleman's PSP from the masses'. But it doesn't end there either—extend those mods to your PS2, Xbox or more! Another benefit of bringing some individuality to your hardware: you can now distinguish your creation from everybody else's instantly.

The Waiting Game

One of the downsides of being first to adopt any new platform is new accessories are either in short supply, back ordered, or simply not released yet (not to mention vaporware). For example, take the PSP—the best stuff is just now becoming available in ample supply. I'm sure over the next six months (or longer) you will continue to see a wider and more varied selection of innovative PSP, Xbox 360, and GB Micro goodies hit store shelves. But for the "here and now" this is what I perceived to be pretty darn good Fall gear which I tested and put through the paces. I did poll many well known vendors and got the same story; either they have plans in the works but can't divulge them, or they have some real gems in development but they won't be available until next year.

Halloween 2005 Treats

Game-Elements (A Philips Company) continues its wildly successful Collector's Edition of Freak Controllers for Xbox and PS2. The all new "Freak Series II Collector's Edition" consists of two PS2 controllers of the Samurai & Ninja (MSRP \$24.99) and the Dragon for Xbox. I was able to get my hands on both PS2 pieces. Notice the PS2 retail packaging box reads "Face-Off" in front to depict the optional included masks to be worn by your warrior. These new Freaks continue the tradition of the hand painted and exquisitely

detailed controllers sculpted by world renowned artist Jeff Kokin. The new Xbox Dragon controller should be arriving shortly. The new Freak Series II should be on store shelves by the time you read this to coincide perfectly for Halloween gaming goodness. Just like the previous series, each controller's level of detail and finish is nothing short of stunning—solid value here. Speaking of gory and Halloween you can't forget the awesome museum piece by NubyTech: The Resident Evil 4 Chainsaw Limited Edition Controller, designed to take advantage of the upcoming Resident Evil 4 game and covered beautifully by Gameworld's Walt Ball—check out the details on the controller here: <http://www.consolegameworld.com/article.php/id/594>.

Hardcore Gamer Accessories ...Core Gamer Arrives

I first discovered Core Gamer at E3 this year and recently received a box of their final shipping production pieces. Presently, they are debuting their beautifully designed and extremely innovative PSP accessories and add-ons. They are expanding rapidly and have amazing price points (and I do mean unbelievable low prices-see below) combined with high quality products. Almost every package has a bonus inside! Be sure to check out the www.core-gamer.com site. Here are Core Gamer's Fall PSP products worth mention and buying:

Rapid Recharger with built-in Movie Stand \$12.99

The great feature of this piece is that it doubles as a movie viewing stand on a perfectly pitched angle! The Rapid Recharger glows blue on both ends and has auto-protection from overcharge. Charge your PSP faster and don't worry about "memory effect" on the PSP battery—will auto shutdown to prevent this.

Humongous PSP Case \$24.99

This has got to be the King Kong of PSP cases. Just look at the picture. Includes room for just about everything PSP related including 10 UMDS, customizable velcro storage dividers, cables, chargers, smaller cases and of course your PSP. It's made of top quality leather with metal brackets and shoulder strap.

3-in-1 Combo Cable with Bonus Car Charger \$12.99

This PSP 3-IN-1 Combo Cable with Bonus Car Charger is solid quality with an innovative design using a standard USB cable which doubles as a download cable for the PSP. The USB 2.0 port is actually on the rear of the Car Charger—very clever!

Console Shield 360 \$19.99

It's called 360 because this versatile shield cover not only protects your PSP, but swivels completely around and then folds into the back for use as a stand. The rubber non-slip comfy grooved grips are great for game play as well. Designed with opening for USB port and includes 3M screen protector.

Be Comfortable In Your Own Skin

Skinning and customization is all the rage these days. Designerskins, based in Rhode Island, is one of the originators in this category and they carry some very unique pieces. I'm sure you will fall in love with several designs. I love my PSP, Xbox, DS, GBA, and PS2 skins...I change them often depending on my mood (don't mess with me—I'm bigger than Texas...in my mind). They make skins for almost anything—check them out at www.designerskins.com.

I'll Take a Cellboost with that GBA

Some of you may have heard of Cellboost. They are mostly known for their line of inexpensive instant disposable battery/chargers for almost every make of cell phone. Cellboost will save your fanny if you ever need emergency juice for your cell phone when your battery is zero! Their products have saved me on more than one occasion. Gamers, I have good news for you. Cellboost now has power solutions for your PSP (2 hours of extended playing time) which you can use as many times as needed until the Cellboost is empty. Same can be said for the Cellboost for the Nintendo DS and GBA SP, but on this product you'll get an extra 6 hours of playing time! They also sell Cellboost for the entire Apple iPod line and will be available at CompUSA, Radio Shack, and Good Guys stores. Check them out on-line at www.cellboost.com.

One last word about Halloween this year. I'm releasing a new PSP product. It simply heats the PSP until soft. Then by adding some pre-packaged flavor, you have the PSP Licorice Brick—now that's witchful thinking. I mean I can't stop falling in love with brew. I mean I only spook when spooked to. Well, I witch you all a Happy Halloween!