

FROM THE MOST AFFORDABLE TO NO LIMITS

Judging by what he has prepared in his sack, Santa Claus is definitely not a Scrooge. From the most sophisticated products for the happy few to gems discovered at the latest trade shows, both Maison & Objet and the Paris Audio Video Show, here is a selection ranging from affordable to no-limit, from fun to downright crazy. Like Oscar Wilde, let's stick to the best!

Jean-Marie Hubert

1 - LEXON BY JEFF KOONS

The famous Balloon Dog, Jeff Koons' iconic sculpture, has been reinvented here as a functional object. It made its debut some time ago in this lighting version, featuring some 400 LEDs that can be customised in colour and intensity and react to the touch of a finger on the dog's nose. And now its little brother, the connected speaker, is here – treat yourself to the duo!

€750 each in department stores and online, in a box set with a certificate of authenticity.
<https://lexon-design.com>

MUSIC ABOVE ALL ELSE

You can treat a loved one without spending a fortune with music. Give them a vinyl record by their favourite artist: if they don't have a turntable, they'll probably get one if they love music. If they don't, they'll frame the cover, which is already an object of desire. Finally, if they're a fan of digital music and regularly use platforms such as Spotify, Deezer or others, give them a subscription to Qobuz, the platform with 120 million tracks offering high-resolution HiRes versions.

The largest selection of vinyl records in Paris is simply at Fnac Ternes (starting at €10), but for aficionados of rare vinyl, the gems can be found at Vinyl 9 - www.vinyl9.com
Qobuz: starting at €12.49 per month - www.qobuz.com/fr-fr/discover

2 - PRO-JECT CELEBRATES OUR ICONIC ARTISTS

The renaissance of vinyl is now well established. It's more than just the search for the purest sound: it's a social phenomenon that today attracts younger generations more than those who experienced it decades ago. The famous turntable manufacturer Pro-Ject, which democratised them and reissued them in every colour of the rainbow, understood this.

With its limited editions, it now pays tribute to the artists who have sold the most of these black discs. After those dedicated to The Beatles, AC/DC, Metallica and the highly publicised Dark Side of the Moon dedicated to Pink Floyd, here comes Elvis. Fans will love it, and so will we!

From £1,400 at hi-fi stores and Vinyl 9
www.vinyl9.com <https://www.project-audio.com/en/>

3 - LA BOÎTE CONCEPT REINVENTS THE HI-FI CABINET WITH THE PR ALTA

This dynamic French company based in the Basque Country had already surprised us with its high-performance connected speakers with a sleek design created by a graduate of the École Boule, and their small desk cabinets incorporating audio equipment. Now comes PR Alta, a piece of furniture combining their latest connected speaker with a turntable. The total mechanical isolation of the turntable and speaker guarantees perfect reproduction of the musical message.

€3,200.00 - Hi-fi and decoration stores
www.laboiteconcept.com

4 - TIVOLI AUDIO IS BACK!

After an absence from the French market, the brand of small portable FM radios with a unique design is back with new built-in technologies, namely connectivity with your environment and your smartphones, tablets and computers, and the new DAB (Digital Audio Broadcast) radio technology, which is spreading throughout major cities: FM without the static. The range is very wide, from small portable radios that you can take anywhere and put in any room (including the bathroom) to Music Systems including CD players and stereo speakers.

From £129 - www.tivoliaudio.eu

5 - LOEWE LEO AND JACOB & CO

The German high-end television brand makes a grand comeback with these high-performance, luxurious jewel-encrusted headphones, for which David Guetta is the ambassador. They have all the features of high-end headphones, including adaptive noise reduction, but above all, they offer real-time translation via AI assistance. The height of luxury: the 'Ice Diamond' and 'Noir Rainbow' versions, adorned with 15.97 carats of precious stones set in a ring and 14-carat rose gold – sublime pieces of jewellery.

From €1,299 for the basic Leo version to €119,000 for the Jacob & Co jewellery version.
<https://www.loewe.tv/fr>





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6 - LEICA FOREVER

A Leica is always a benchmark for photography enthusiasts. And a great gift idea with two new models. The M11 family is expanded with the brand new M11P-Safari, a legacy of the brand since the 1970s, with a beautiful olive green finish. It has 256GB of internal memory and a choice of 60.36 or 18 million pixel resolution. The Reporter family is expanding with the SL3, which emphasises robustness and reliability, interchangeable lenses and image quality of up to 60 megapixels. It will follow you everywhere.

€9,250 (M11) and €7,200 (SL3) - www.leica-camera.com

7-8 - HIGH END FOR THE HAPPY FEW

These Loewe Jacob & Co headphones, priced at €119,000, are a great introduction to the craziest products of the year. The vinyl craze has obviously also taken hold at the very top end of the market, and we have selected three turntables from this segment for you. Metronome Audio is a French high-end hi-fi brand. Initially specialising in digital technology, it wanted to explore the world of analogue, offering the best in terms of both design and technology. The solid steel chassis ensures perfect isolation from the outside world and therefore pure sound reproduction. The Kalista Twenty (7) Twenty turntable is a jewel treated like a piece of fine jewellery. Its three suspension columns ensure perfect mechanical isolation from the outside world, while its motor, isolated from the turntable, is connected to the platter by a belt to avoid any interference. But Metronome Audio is not abandoning the high-end digital market with the Dreamplay X, which allows digital files to be played via streaming.

€49,900 for the turntable and €61,000 for the Dreamplay - www.metronome.audio
Musical Fidelity (1 photo), the long-standing British brand, offers its answer to vinyl playback with this magnificent M 8 X TT turntable made entirely of acrylic (8).
€8,990 - <https://musicalfidelity-audio.fr>

We cannot conclude this selection of the world's best turntables without mentioning EAT (9) again, the haute couture brand of turntables (see Dandy No. 93)

From £1,500 to £15,000 - www.europeanaudioteam.com

But for all this to work, you need electronics and speakers. Here too, like Bugatti, the ultimate luxury car manufacturer, we have set ourselves no price limits. Dan d'Agostino's electronics (10) are designed like pieces of fine watchmaking, without compromise. The porthole-style dials are very representative of the American brand. Amplifiers sculpted from metal with incredible power reserves: as in the automotive world, a large power reserve ensures smoother performance.

From £30,000 to £100,000 - www.dandagostino.com

In the field of loudspeakers, Wilson Audio is now considered the global benchmark in its segment. Its flagship model is the monumental and sculptural Wham (11), which requires a room of comfortable dimensions and a significant budget, but is justified by a listening experience that sublimates the concert. Make no mistake: this is not equipment for professional use, but for domestic use by those who want the best and whose wildest dreams centre on listening to music, rather than cars, yachts or other passions that can sometimes be even more expensive. It is a personal choice. Whilst Wham is a global benchmark, it is now available in a more affordable range, including Alexia, a highly successful speaker that can be made to order with customised finishes and varnishes in a choice of colours and shades to suit your environment.

€600,000 (Wham) and €110,000 (Alexia) - <https://www.wilsonaudio.com>

Maria Callas or Miles Davis in your living room every night: it's a dream come true. Close your eyes: you're transported to the Royal Albert Hall, La Scala in Milan or the Philharmonie de Paris tonight, and the Blue Note in New York tomorrow.