

## FASHION

## What's the eco approach to style?

Mixing investment buys with low-cost fashion helps to reduce the amount of clothes we throw out each season. But, even so, we're in danger of being swamped by discarded fashion. Throwaway prices mean that we make room for the new by discarding some two million tonnes of the old every year, which is dumped in landfill.

## LIGHT RESPONSE:

## Wash cooler

Laundry in the UK is done in hot water, wasting 1.6 billion kilowatt hours of energy a year, when most clothes can be washed at 30 degrees. Because it's so easy to wash clothes, it's tempting to sling everything into the laundry basket after wearing it once, but try removing a tiny mark by wiping with a cloth rather than throwing the garment into the machine. Tumble dryers eat up energy, while a washing line is free, and green.

## MID GREEN:

## Make do and mend

One of the greenest and most cost-effective things to do for your wardrobe is to extend the lifespan of the stuff already in it. Just two per cent of our dress budget is spent on repairing existing items, and this is decreasing, even though items such as shoes can be re-heeled and re-soled. Every home needs a sewing box, and the art of secret mending needs to stage a comeback.

## DEEP GREEN:

## Swap, customise and hire

Have you got new, never-worn items in your wardrobe? You're not alone. Clothes swaps ([visaswap.com](http://visaswap.com)) allow you to get rid of these items while replenishing your own wardrobe. While hiring occasion wear has always been possible, now an annual subscription to a bag library ([be-a-fashionista.co.uk](http://be-a-fashionista.co.uk)) gives you a short loan on an "it" bag, so you can borrow a Birkin or lease a Louis Vuitton. Green, thrifty and fashionable. The perfect trinity.

# Organise your home entertainment

Camilla Chafer, editor of *Technoglam.com*, looks at best buys to make a night in just as much fun as a night out

## GET THE BEST QUALITY TV PICTURES

**SONY'S BLU-RAY DISC PLAYER:** The new Blu-ray DVD players look almost the same as standard DVDs but give brilliant high definition (HD) pictures, can store more data and discs, and can also be played on the PS3 games console. Blu-ray DVDs have more features and other movie information included on the disc, which is a bonus for movie buffs. Prices for Blu-Ray players are still higher than DVD players but we can expect to see prices come down as their popularity grows.

**COST:** Sony's Blu-ray Disc Player BDP-S350B, £218.99, [sonystyle.co.uk](http://sonystyle.co.uk).



## HOME CINEMA MADE SIMPLE

**SAMSUNG HOME CINEMA SOUNDBAR HT-X810:** Home cinemas used to be ugly things with many unsightly wires, but the Samsung HT-X810 soundbar is from the new generation of streamlined, elegant systems. Paired with a wireless subwoofer that prevents interference from other entertainment appliances, the built-in DVD player means further cutting down on extra DVD players (it plays CDs too), and HD-upscaling ensures that you can play a standard DVD on a HD TV without losing any picture quality.

**COST:** £489.35, [comet.co.uk](http://comet.co.uk); £471.37, [amazon.co.uk](http://amazon.co.uk); also see [samsung.com/uk](http://samsung.com/uk).

## STORE MEDIA WITHOUT CLOGGING UP YOUR PC

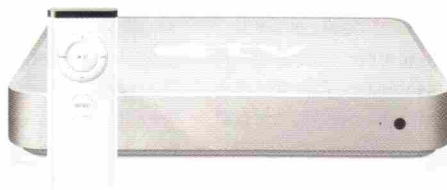
**DISGO MEDIA BANK:** A digital media-storage bank like this can hold many films, music files and other digital media without clogging up your PC's hard drive. It's easy to use with a simple plug-and-play set up. The 500GB hard drive can be used to store photos, MP3 songs, digital video and HD video, which can be recorded directly from your TV or digital set-top box and played back immediately on your TV.

**COST:** £169.99, [mydisgo.com](http://mydisgo.com).

## CONNECT YOUR COMPUTER TO YOUR TV

**APPLE TV:** The Apple TV box pairs your PC with your HD TV, so that you can download and rent films, watch TV programmes or buy a season pass to record an entire season of your favourite show online, via your iTunes account. Anything bought can also be used on your iPod or iPhone, plus you can transfer and display photos that are already on your PC to your TV.

**COST:** £195 at [apple.com/uk/appletv](http://apple.com/uk/appletv). Prices for downloads from the Apple website vary: £1.19 for a TV programme, £2.49 for films, or £3.49 for new film rentals, while songs cost 79p each.





## Music in your life

**BUY IT...** Amazon's music-download service is set to rival iTunes, with single tracks costing from 59p, and whole albums from £3. And the shopping basket is used the same way as on the rest of the site. The good news is that it's compatible with iTunes and will also download to Windows MP3 player, so can be played on any MP3 player. Downloading is easy – a small software application called Amazon MP3 Downloader is available for free and ensures that you can download whole albums with just one click. Available at [amazon.co.uk](http://amazon.co.uk).

**STORE IT...** Sony's HDD Giga Juke music player is the way to combat that growing mountain of CDs in your home. This hifi has a 80GB hard drive, so it can store up to 15,000 music tracks ready for you to access via the menu. Listening isn't restricted to just one room with the music server option – couple it with one of the wireless players to access the server from another room and you can play your selection remotely. It costs from £289 for the music player, or £489 for the music server from [sonystyle.co.uk](http://sonystyle.co.uk).

**GO ANYWHERE...** The iPod is still hugely popular and now the curved aluminium and glass Nano-Chromatic version has been released with funky new colours, a slimmer shape, a video screen and cool new features. The Genius feature searches your music for songs that go together to create playlists, the clever two-inch screen automatically displays content in portrait or landscape as the iPod is turned, and it only takes a quick shake to change tracks. Costs from £107 at [apple.com/uk](http://apple.com/uk).

KNOW  
HOW

## Efficient TV... Sky+ tips

\*According to a new survey, 60 per cent of us now save cash by spending our nights in with family and friends watching TV rather than going out

**Q. Can I record programmes even when my TV isn't on standby?**

Yes, just make sure that your Sky+ box is switched on at the wall and that you have selected the programmes that you want to record.

**Q. What is AnytimeTV?** This clever programme is available on newer Sky+ boxes. It works by selecting and saving programmes that it thinks you will like, leaving them accessible via the TV Guide menu, so that you can watch them after the programmes have been aired.

**Q. Can I still use it after the digital switchover?** Yes. The switchover is already underway and will be completed by 2012. If you don't have a digital reception yet, you will soon need one. The set-top box receives digital broadcasts and means that you don't need to update your TV set. **w&h**