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Driving Smart with Sheryll Alexander

2009 Valentine Gift Guide for Mobile Workers

BY SHERYLL ALEXANDER

Mobile workers need lots of techy devices, right? For your on-the-go Valentine, I road tested the following top cars, mobile devices, bags, phones and other products for mobile workers based on value in price, quality, functionality and innovation.

Top Mobile Vehicles to Love: Okay, maybe it's not sexy, but the **2009 Suzuki SX4 Crossover** comes standard with a cool flip-top Garmin navigation system and the safety of all-wheel-drive for around \$16,000. Other road tests show these vehicles are excellent for the mobile lifestyle: **2009 Ford Flex** (a high tech rolling mobile lounge), **2009 Acura TL** (amazing AcuraLink infotainment and nav software) and **2009 Hyundai Genesis** (overall excellent sedan down to the technology).

Powerful Sexy Laptop: Give your Valentine the gift of Microsoft's new Vista operating program encased in a sexy red Samsung X460 laptop. I have thoroughly enjoyed wireless surfing (using Sprint's Sierra Compass wireless modem) and working with Microsoft applications on this shiny black model with super crisp graphics. Samsung's X460 is super thin at just 1.25 inches and weighs less than four pounds, which I found delightful. I also love the Samsung X460 for its long-running lithium ion battery, which delivers almost three hours of non-stop run time on an average charge. Overall on my road test, I found the Samsung X460 is an extremely capable mobile workhorse for love-their-mobile-lifestyle workers. Always stay connected with Sprint's easy-to-use Sierra Compass wireless modem.

Traffic Buster for Your Love Life: Navigon's 2200T portable navigation helps you avoid traffic with its voice guidance, free real-time traffic updates for life (so they say), lane assistance pro (very cool!), a speed assistant (shows you the road's speed limit), a smart speller (for easier data entry) and millions of points of interest. Navigon's "fresh maps" also lets you download up to 12 map updates in three years. I found the Navigon 2200T is a cool portable navigation system with crisp graphics, nice turn-by-turn directions and advanced features like traffic and weather reports as well as speed limit monitor and lane analysis.

Free Transportation: Maybe your mobile lover works mostly at home, but desires a free and eco-friendly way to get around town? Engineered and designed in Switzerland (but assembled in Mesa, Ariz.), **E-Bikeboard** is truly cool alternative transportation. This electric-powered three-wheel vehicle can get up to 20 mph at a range of almost 35 miles. I road tested the stand-up S1000 sport model and found it rather unstable, although I thought the optional seat on the 500-watt S500X model is stable, easy to drive and comfortable.

Remember Memory: Remember the last time your Valentine's hard drive crashed and he or she went into an angry depression for days? Get her the **FreeAgent Go** mobile storage device. Seagate's FreeAgent Go has so much memory that your mobile lover can back up photos, music, videos and documents. And with the desk dock unit, you can make automated back ups, synchronize and encrypt data. I road test a powder pink metallic 320GB model (also comes in 250GB and 500GB) and found it to be super stylish, easy to use and extremely portable.

Mini Me Memory: Your gadget geek is always looking for other cool storage devices, right? SanDisk makes teeny tiny microSDHC memory cards for mobile phones. The SanDisk microSDHC can add much more capacity to your beloved current mobile device so they don't have to buy a new one.

Night Light: As a mobile worker, I come and go both day at night. Sometimes, I need a little help getting in my front door as I'm so bogged down with mobile devices and bags (and lots of kid stuff too!). For a small, but powerful Valentine gift, buy your mobile lover a **NanoLite**. This tiny piece of plastic adheres to your house key with a powerful adhesive. When you push the button now placed on your key, a bright red beam. NanoLite can be purchased at [Amazon](#).

Sheryll Alexander is a lifestyles writer based in Costa Mesa, California.

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Vehicles for the Mobile Worker

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