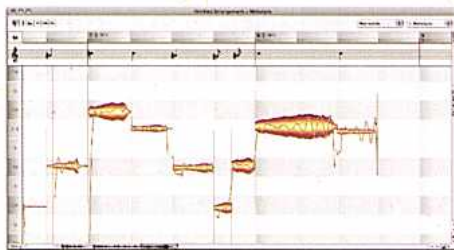




### CERWIN-VEGA CVHD 5.1 SURROUND SOUND SYSTEM

If the phrase "go big or go home" strikes a chord, Cerwin-Vega's CVHD 5.1—a six-piece satellite/subwoofer system—provides the perfect opportunity to go big... at home. Each of the five identical satellite speakers is a couple feet tall and half a foot wide, meaning they take up a fair amount of space in the home, and they produce face-melting sound in full surround. Unlike many home-theater manufacturers, Cerwin-Vega is a serious speaker company, and it shows: The bass is deep, and the overall sound is incredibly full, perfect for movie-watching, music-appreciating, or drunk-dancing/passing out. At under \$600 online, it's a great deal (though it should be pointed out that if you're not wall-mounting, floor stands for the satellite speakers will cost you an extra \$300). By any standards, though, this is a **finely tuned, well-built, screaming mule-kick of a soundsystem**, and a winning proposition for anyone involved... except the neighbors. *Evan Shamoon* MSRP: \$999; cerwin-vega.com



### CELEMONY MELODYNE PLUG-IN WITH DIRECT NOTE ACCESS

This is one of those innovations that's going to save producers serious cash from the get-go. Ever tracked a guitar only to realize the next week that the E string was slightly out of tune? In the past, this usually meant one thing: re-track! In Celemony's newest iteration of their professional pitch-correction software, they've included a modestly titled feature called Direct Note Access. This little wonder literally lets you "unpack" mono or stereo audio files into their component notes and then *manipulate each one independently!* Tune up the E string without affecting the rest of the chord! Lower the pitch of a tom in a drum loop without affecting the kick. The possibilities are endless. **This, folks, is why computers are awesome.** *Roger Thomasson*  
MSRP: \$TBA; celemony.com



### ACTIVETRAX SELF-POWERED AUDIO SYSTEM

For iPod enthusiasts—particularly those inclined to bother **everyone around** them by publicly pumping out their audio—there's no besting ActiveTrax's self-powered speaker system. Powered by a hand crank or by the sun, this baby lets out a decent 20 minutes of connected-iPod audio for every minute of winding. No, it's no Bose system, but for a speaker that fits in your pocket (or the hard/soft case that's included in the package) and comes in at under 40 bucks, the sound's not half bad. What's more, when the iPod isn't connected (via the eighth-inch jack), the unit offers AM, FM, and Weather Band radio, picked up by a small but retractable antenna. While we don't recommend polluting the outdoor environs, we've gotta admit that it's a must have for park-lovin' folks. *Derek Grey*  
MSRP: \$39.95; seattlesportsco.com



### SKULLCANDY TI GOLD FOIL RASTA HEADPHONES

What can you say about a pair of **headphones that make you look like the most blinged-out Rastafarian ever?** Fortunately, a lot. Aside from just looking like the king of the dancehall, wearing the TIs (named with the 41mm titanium speakers in mind) affords you some really nice sound, with solid mids and true highs throughout. Packaged with two sets of earpads (I prefer the jelly green over the gold vinyl), the TIs offer much comfort—even the over-the-head frame is nicely stuffed. My only issue was that these cans were a *little* crunchy in the low-end, but they offered enough other features to make them worth the price, the best of which is the mid-cord volume adjuster, which makes them great for iPod listening and sound-surfing at my desk—where I'm least embarrassed to wear them. *Brett Ashley*  
MSRP: \$79.99; skullcandy.com