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- FUN & GAMES
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HANDHELDS



eVest is Wired for Stashing Gadgets

Lots of pockets, plus special conduits for connecting headphones and earbuds

[BY CHARLES HEROLD]

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AUG 13, 2001 - If you're looking for a way to comfortably carry a cellphone, a handheld computer, an MP3 player, a Gameboy and a bottle of beer without looking more than a little bit dorky you might want to check out the **Scott eVest**, a pocket-laden vest that not only holds your gizmos but also allows you to wire them up.

The idea behind the eVest is to let you run headphones and connectors directly through the vest. For example, you can put an MP3 player in a pocket and run the earbuds cord through a slit, up a Velcro conduit and right into your ear.

I love pockets — I used to have a Banana Republic photographer's vest — and the eVest has a hell of a lot of pockets. Pockets in front of and within other pockets, pen and stylus pockets, secret pockets, and even a special Velcro inner pocket specifically designed to hold a beer bottle. Just get some plastic tubing and you can run a line from the bottle through the Velcro conduits and straight to your mouth.

While less dorky than the last gizmo garment we reviewed, the **e-Holster**, the \$160 eVest isn't the height of fashion. The eVest aims to be rather nondescript and tries to look like it doesn't have a lot of pockets. Personally I'd like it better if it had a more pockety look.

Scott E. Jordan, the man who created the vest and humbly named it, isn't trying to break into the fashion biz. His real goal is to license what he calls PAN Tech (Personal Area Network Technology), the eVest's system of slits and conduits, to other clothing makers. He dreams of a day when every vest and raincoat has a little tag hanging from the sleeve with PAN TECH on it. And since a mountain-climber with a PAN-TECH enabled coat might be able to use his phone while hanging by one hand from a cliff a thousand



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feet in the air, Scott may have some success.

The eVest is a fairly practical way to deal with an overload of electronic gizmos, but I'm still hoping for the day of a combination PDA/MP3 player/cell phone the size of a credit card. While the eVest is an interesting short-term solution, the real answer isn't in clothing. It's in less stuff.

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