

## ANT WORKS

[www.fascinations.com](http://www.fascinations.com)

Long before ant farms became a fad children's gift in the 1970s, NASA designed ant habitats that could be shot into space for research. Instead of dirt, the rocket scientists filled the containers with a unique gel that could be illuminated with a flashlight. The goal was to study how successfully ants can tunnel in microgravity situations. The results? Highly classified. But the tools to obtain the data are now readily available. Just poke four holes into the gel in the container, find about a dozen household ants, and watch as they dig for their little lives. Use the built-in lamp to either make the gel glow, or convince the ants that you control day and night. We prefer the latter. \$35

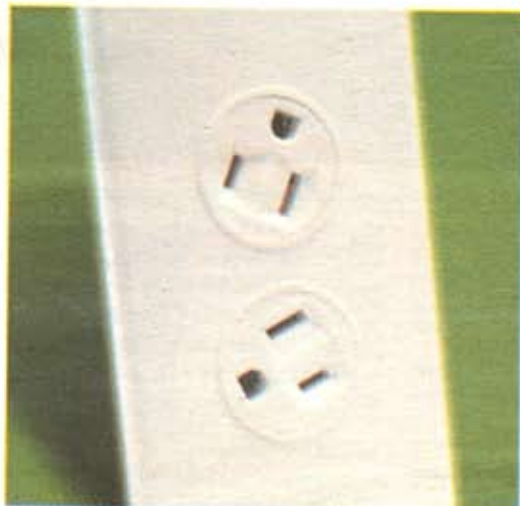
## WINEPOD

[www.mosaicwine.com](http://www.mosaicwine.com)

Getting into the wine business just got a whole lot easier, thanks to a new San Jose-based company. Their soon-to-be-released product, the WinePod, is a home-based fermentation machine capable of producing up to six cases of cabernet, pinot, or whatever varietal grapes you throw in. An on-board computer system constantly evaluates the wine, offers suggestions (add water, adjust pH level, etc.), and wirelessly connects users to wine experts should a batch of merlot start turning into MadDog 20/20. At \$2,000, this steel egg seems mighty expensive, but if you drink a glass of wine a night, the unit will pay for itself in about a year – less than the time it takes to ferment the perfect Beaujolais.



[ HIT LIST ]



## PLUG AND TURN

[www.360electrical.com](http://www.360electrical.com)

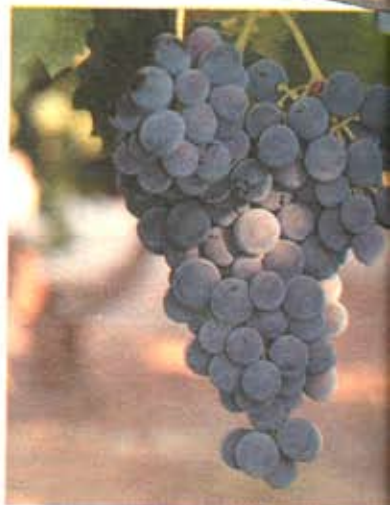
It happens to virtually everyone: Power is needed and an unused outlet is found, but it's blocked by the large three-prong plug-in of another electrical device. With the soon-to-be-released Plug and Turn™ from 360 Electrical, those days are gone. Need to charge a cell phone on the same outlet as a hair dryer? No problem. Simply plug them in, then rotate the outlet until both plugs have sufficient space. Price TBA.



## THUMBTHING

[www.thumbthing.com](http://www.thumbthing.com)

Reading paperbacks just got easier. With the ThumbThing, there'll be no more binding bending, no more adjusting of grips after each page, and no more sore thumbs. Simply slip on a ThumbThing, rest its contoured edge in the book's spine, and enjoy pain-free, hassle-free reading in bed, at the beach, or during a commute. And it's a bookmark. Why didn't you think of that? \$4



## SOUTH VALLEY WINE AUCTION

[www.svwineauction.org](http://www.svwineauction.org)

Here's a chance to score some cheap booze for good. The Eighth South Valley Wine Auction will be held on April 28 from 6-10pm at the Morgan Hill and Cultural Center. A \$50 entry ticket buys you access to a live cowboy auction ("40, 40, 40, do I be 50 going once, 60!") where you can grab bottles and cases of rare wine from Napa, Sonoma, Monterey, Morgan Hill and other Northern California regions. All funds raised benefit the athletic programs at 11 South Valley high schools. **EW**