



Electronic yule

Camcorders, stereos, toys for every stocking

SANTA'S ELVES must be taking some electronic engineering classes during their off-season because high-tech gifts are among the most wanted and received at Christmas time.

If you're dreaming of an electronic Christmas this year, drop plenty of hints about the latest in audio-visual equipment, appliances and high-tech toys. And, you'll easily find a new innovation or update in electronics for those on your gift list.

One of the hottest gifts for the 1986 holiday season is the camcorder, a combination video camera, recorder and usually playback device, according to Jim O'Toole, electronics buyer for Spiegel. Especially popular are the compact VHS models, which offer maneuverability.

The compact camcorder is one of dozens of electronics that have done some shrinking during the year. Portable TVs, like the Sony Watchman, are the latest rage. The Sports Watchman, for instance, offers FM stereo with a two-inch black and white TV, LCD quartz alarm, plus stereo headphones so you can listen privately. A flip-out stand offers hands-free viewing.

THE PICTURES ON today's tiny TVs have greatly improved. "Technology is such that the picture is getting much better than some of the earlier versions," O'Toole said.

Manufacturers have updated port-

ble cassette stereos with solar power, recording capabilities (you can play one cassette and record on another at the same time) and improved sound.

Another sound option is the portable compact disc player. Weighing in at about two pounds, these players are ideal for use as a portable or an integrated component of an existing home music system. GE's compact disc player and AM/FM Dolby stereo cassette offers an equalizer and detachable speakers.

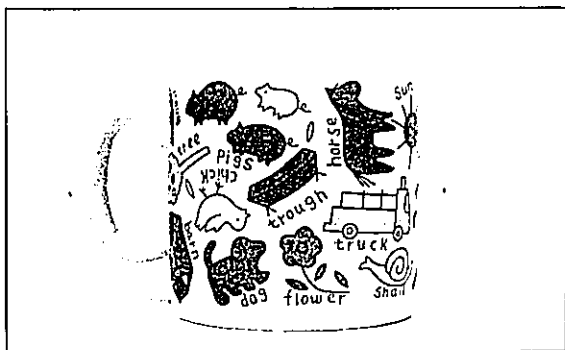
If someone on your gift list is intimidated by all the knobs and buttons on a conventional VCR, consider one with on-screen display, like RCA's stereo VCR that takes you through programming step-by-step.

You can even choose an electronic gift for someone by just knowing their favorite color. Telephones, clock radios, portable stereos, televisions, cameras and typewriters now come in a rainbow of colors.

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED in kitchen tech, some of the latest portable microwaves would delight working couples and college students alike. The Sharp Half Pint is roomy enough for a 10-inch dinner plate, making it ideal for short snacks or full-course meals.

You can even go high tech with a toaster. Vivalp's electronic toaster has a removable heating element that com-

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STEVE FECHT/staff photographer

Melodious mug

Not only is this charming child's mug music to the ears, it'll put a song on the lips. Pick it up and it plays "Jingle Bells." Set it down and it's quiet. At \$7.99 from Repeat Performance in Farmington Hills.

Thursday, November 27, 1986

O&E Gift Guide

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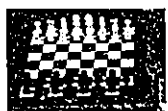
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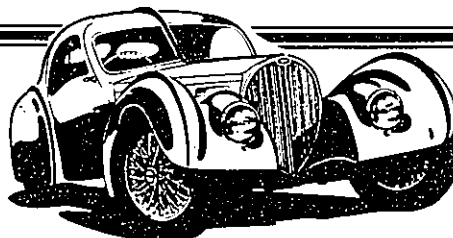
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