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TEN MINUTES INTO HIS DIVE, DAVE SHAW STARTED TO LOOK FOR THE BOTTOM. UTTER BLACKNESS PRESSED IN ON HIM FROM ALL SIDES... FROM "RAISING THE DEAD"

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## The Spoke Word: Holiday Gifts for Cyclists

A few holiday gift ideas for any cyclists in your life. Or, if you're a cyclist who's looking to drop hints, maybe "accidentally" leave this page open on your computer while you head out for your next ride.

—John Bradley

### [Zipp ZedTech wheels](#)

If you race or really, really love someone who races, here's a "what recession?" gift idea. Zipp already makes some of the fastest, most reliable, and most sought-after wheels in the industry. And with it's ZedTech program, the American company has started letting buyers customize their wheels to the tiniest details. Start with a Zed 2 rim for climbing, the pro-favorite Zed 4 for all-around racing, on up to a full-disc Zed 9 for time trials, then choose from an array of drive, bearing, and hardware options. Finish it off with custom decals available in pretty much any color you can create. From \$1,898 per wheel.



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### [Rapha Merino Base Layer](#)

I never ride without a base layer, and I don't like doing laundry. So, suffice it to say, I've got a lot of them. But my Rapha Merino Base Layer is my go-to piece. It's the softest, best fitting, most comfortable, and, thanks to the wool, least stinky one in my collection. Not coincidentally, it's also the only one that has ever prompted my wife (who loves making fun of my cycling clothes) to say, "Is that a new T-shirt? I like it!" Available in long sleeve, short sleeve, or sleeveless. \$73



### [Sidi Toasters](#)

These rechargeable, remote-controlled insoles sense ambient temperature to maintain a cozy 100 degrees inside your shoes. Just unplug them, put them in place of your normal insoles, and go. If Sidi ever brings this technology to a chamois, I might actually look forward to winter rides. \$300



### [Saris SuperMagneto Pro indoor trainer](#)

Certainly the most natural-feeling magnetic trainer I've been on. Like most good trainers, the SuperMagneto has a progressive power curve, meaning resistance increases as you go faster, just like out on the road. The unique feature here, though, is the ability to switch between four different resistance settings, something Saris calls Flexible Power Curve Technology. Turn the dial to the Easy setting, and the resistance ramps up slowly for high-cadence spinning or to bring less experienced cyclists up to speed. Three more settings—Road, Interval, and Mountain—get progressively tougher. Great for beginners or for advanced riders who have varied workout routines but are stuck inside for the winter. \$399



### [Garmin 705 bike computer](#)

The GPS-enabled 705 was my favorite new piece of cycling equipment this year. Yes, I'm a geek. But I loved coming home after rides, loading the data onto my computer, and seeing my speed and heart rate rise and fall with the terrain (not to



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ascent, swappable ride data, and a color screen and maps that make getting lost a thing of the past). The only hitch was that the 705 worked on a different protocol than my wireless Saris PowerTap power meter. That meant two computer heads on my handlebars—one for watts and the other for everything else. But within weeks, Saris will release a firmware update for their PowerTap hubs that will enable them to work on the same frequency as the 705. Now every metric a cyclist could want during a ride (save for those requiring finger pricks or breathing masks) will be there on one easy-to-read unit. \$500



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[Trek Time Computer](#)

A great stocking stuffer for commuters, casual cyclists, or 'core riders who want an inexpensive computer option for their third or fourth bike. The snap-on unit comes with two different brackets to fit most any handlebar and offers one-button navigation between current speed, trip distance, and time. \$40



[Truvativ HammerSchmidt cranks](#)

If the cyclist in your life leans more toward baggy shorts than spandex and Red Bull than PowerBars, this is already on his list. Using a planetary drive mechanism (several smaller gears spinning around a common center like planets around the sun) the engineers at Truvativ have created a single-chaining system that offers the gear range of a double. Hit the front shift lever as you normally would, and the internals of the unit switch while the chain itself stays in the same position. No front derailleurs to break. No crossed or dropped chains. And no worries about shifting under power. You can even shift without pedaling, which is a huge benefit for the freeride/all-mountain set the HammerSchmidt is geared toward. This is likely the next big step in mountain biking. \$595



[Gore Ride-On Low-Friction cables](#)

A relatively inexpensive upgrade that even inexperienced cyclists will notice, Gore's coated-cable-and-housing combo all but eliminates cable friction for more responsive shifting and braking and better durability. For mountain bikers or those in mucky climates, Gore also offers a sealed version that encases the cable in an additional liner to protect it from the elements. \$50; \$65 for sealed system



[Pedro's Critical Mass QR carbon-fiber multitool](#)

One more stocking stuffer. This barely-there multitool is made of carbon fiber and titanium and offers seven hex wrenches, two screwdrivers, a spoke wrench, and a Torx wrench for disc rotors. And did I mention the carbon and ti? \$70



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