



Test Drive
FOLDING KAYAK

Water-loving urbanites are the primary audience for the **Fölböt Citiböt (\$1094)**, a 10-ft., 24-pound kayak that folds up small enough to sit in a tight hallway closet or a VW Jetta trunk. Assembling any folding boat is a job for tinkerers—snapping together the poles that form the Citiböt's frame and inserting the structure into the tough fabric skin took us 25 minutes. (Designer Phil Cotton swears it becomes 10 minutes with practice.) On the water, the kayak is a pleasure. Like historic Inuit boats, the Citiböt is quiet and relatively stable in rough water—the kayak flexes as waves pass beneath it. And it's about half the price of its competitors. folbot.com



DOWNGRADE

For every commonplace product, inventors see a modern-age flaw. Example: It's tough to send text messages while holding an umbrella. The solution: **Nubrella (\$50)**, a hands-free rain shield that straps onto your shoulders, allowing for two-handed texting. But is that worth the hazmat look? "A guy carrying it would come across as delicate or fussy," says *Cosmopolitan* editor-in-chief Kate White. "Women love guys who aren't afraid of getting a little wet." Bottom line? You may survive the rainstorm, but your dignity won't. nubrella.com



Roaming Hotspot ///

Until next-gen wireless technology comes out, we're stuck with Wi-Fi. It's fast, but stray too far from a hotspot and your signal bars disappear. The **CradlePoint CTR500 Cellular Travel Router (\$180)** allows anyone to bring a hotspot on the road. Plug your cellphone or cellular modem into the handheld device and it transforms the data stream into a Wi-Fi signal, allowing you to use the connection with a laptop—setup is easy. cradlepoint.com

ILLUSTRATION BY BRADLEY R. HUGHES; PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRIS ECKERT/STUDIO D (DOWNGRADE)