

the ultimate travel toolkit

BY DYLAN TWENEY

The future of travel is here. We've got 25 essentials to make your trip go smoother — whether it's merely down the street or to infinity and beyond

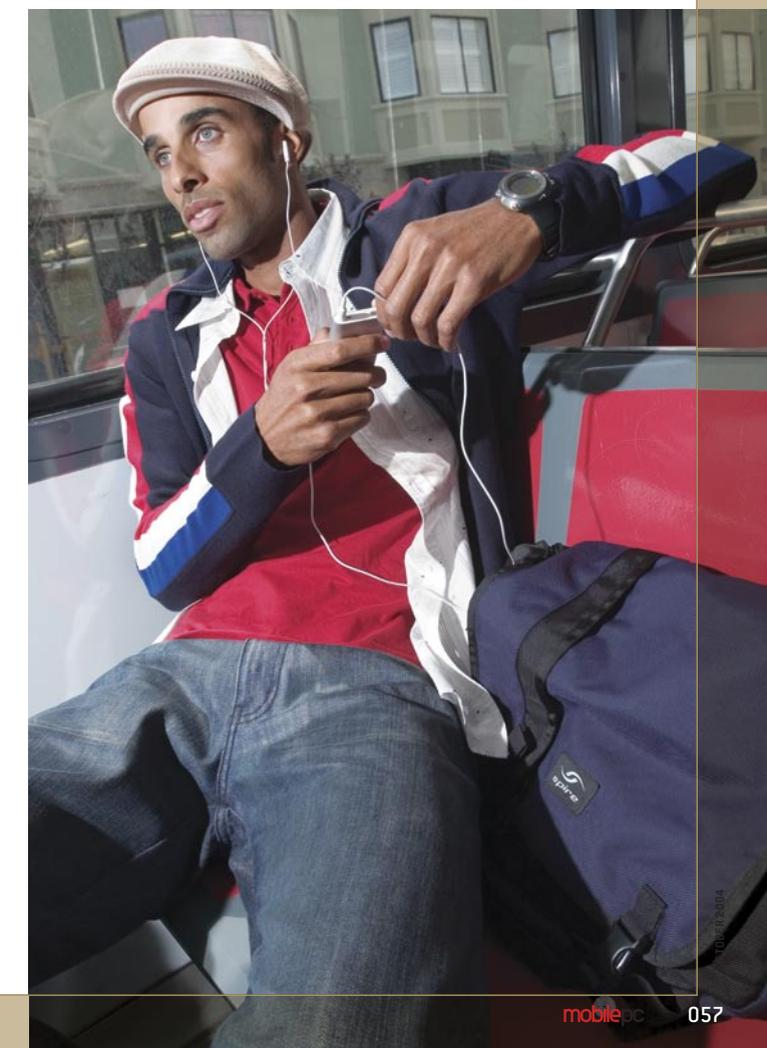
You are the future of business: mobile, always in touch, never going more than a few hours without checking e-mail, Google, WSJ.com, or BoingBoing. You are one of the rootless denizens of the modern world, a tech-savvy world traveler who works from an airplane tray table or the passenger seat of a rental car more often than your office desk.

You need tech gear that lets you work wherever you are. And *Mobile PC* is here to bring it to you.

Over the past year, *Mobile PC's* editors have tested hundreds of products. We've taken gadgets on road trips, through airport security lines, and home for extended weekends to find out which ones travel well — and which ones are little more than overpriced boat anchors. Now, we've put that expertise to work in assembling the ultimate toolkits for four very different business travelers.

In the following pages, you'll find the full complement of tech gear for your travels, no matter what kind of a business lifestyle you lead.

Photography by Mark Madeo
Assistant photographer: Samantha Berg
Styling: Peggi Jeung for Artist United
Men's grooming, hair, and makeup:
Sherrie Long for Artist United



the jet-setter

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

- ✕ Portability
- ✕ Power
- ✕ Style

The only thing we can't give you is an upgrade to first class

✈ You travel three weeks out of every month. You subsist (if you can call it that) on overpriced room service and cocktail party canapés, scooped up between schmoozing and deal-closing. You're on a first-name basis with the pilot. That's right — you're a frequent flier, and you need gear that's powerful enough to handle everything you throw at it, yet small and light enough so that it doesn't break your back as you carry it from one business rendezvous to another.



THE BRIEFCASE **Marware CEO Milano Brief**

Once you've transubstantiated your business existence into digital form, you don't want physical office crap dragging you down. The Marware CEO Milano Brief helps ensure that you travel light: It's just big enough for your ThinkPad X40, plus a charger, notepad, your MP3 player, and a copy of *Mobile PC*. File folders won't fit, so leave those for your assistants. **\$140; www.marware.com**

THE AUDIO PLAYER **iRiver iHP-120**

You're a Windows user, and your collection of WMA music files is decidedly un-iPodable, so the iRiver iHP-120 is your best bet for portable audio. It also sports an FM tuner and voice-recording capability for capturing off-the-cuff memos to your secretary — and its slick black-and-silver case is more impressive than the iPod's kitchen-appliance white. **\$336; www.iriver.com**



THE SMART PHONE **RIM BlackBerry 7230**

Like a GameBoy for businesspeople, the BlackBerry 7230 earns its cult reputation and "CrackBerry" moniker. Call it what you will, this bad boy is an essential tool for doing business on the go. In addition to keeping you in constant contact with corporate or personal POP3 e-mail accounts, the 7230 doubles as a cell phone and an organizer. **\$350; www.researchinmotion.com**

THE NOTEBOOK **IBM ThinkPad X40**

Like Oscar de la Hoya, the ThinkPad X40 is small but packs a powerful punch. At 3.3 pounds (including the optional extra-large battery), it's no heavier than a hardback; its five hours and 36 minutes of battery life will keep you working most of the way from New York to L.A.; and its elegant black angles might even turn a few heads in business class. Sure, it's not the fastest computer on the block, but as long as your work doesn't involve playing *Doom III*, it's got the *cojones* to go all 12 rounds. **\$1,808; www.ibm.com**

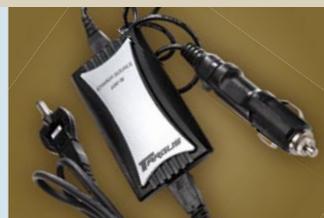


THE CAMERA **Canon PowerShot SD10**

You're not going to Paris without a camera, are you? We didn't think so. With the 4.2-ounce PowerShot SD10 in your bag, you can take outstanding 4-megapixel snapshots wherever your travels take you. **\$349; www.canonusa.com**

THE POWER SOURCE **Targus Universal Power Adapter**

For long trips, slip one of these into your carry-on (and leave your notebook's heavier power brick at home). The Targus Universal Auto/Air Notebook Power Adapter works with any airline power adapter, or your car's cigarette lighter, to provide on-the-go power to your portable. Throw in Belkin's \$25 Universal AC Travel Adapter and you can plug into AC current anywhere. **\$100; www.targus.com**



THE ULTIMATE TRAVEL TOOLKIT

TOTAL PRICE

\$3,083

TOTAL TRAVEL WEIGHT

8.5 pounds

Shot on location at Ascend Development's corporate aircraft hangars, Hayward, California (www.parkavion.com). Aircraft ground support provided by Trajen FBO Network (www.trajen.com).

Suit: Jones New York
Shirt: H Tommy Hilfiger

the road warrior

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

- Power
- Power
- Power

The best gear for when your car is your cubicle

 Your car is more than mere transportation, it's a way of life. Heck, it is your life: You spend hours each day driving from customer to customer (or merely from the outer burbs to your downtown job), so you can't just leave the tools of your trade at home. Fortunately, you've got a large trunk. Throw in the kit shown here, and you'll be ready for anything on life's highway.



THE GPS TomTom Go

You don't want to show up late for the big sales pitch — so make sure you arrive at the right place, at the right time, with an in-car GPS system. We love the TomTom Go's small, friendly form factor, almost moronically simple interface, and its street price, which is several hundred dollars less than that of its competitors. **\$899; www.tomtom.com**

THE CELL PHONE Nokia 6600

The Nokia 6600 is a solid performer, with Java support, a 0.3-megapixel (VGA resolution) camera that also records video at 15fps, and the ability to connect with your PC via Bluetooth or infrared. Its large, bright screen is easy to view, inside or out. We also recommend Nokia's \$100 hands-free kit for the 6600. **\$250; www.nokia.com**



THE POWER SUPPLY Belkin 300w AC Anywhere

Plug the Belkin 300w AC Anywhere into your cigarette lighter, and bam, you've got 300 watts of 120-volt wall current. That's more than enough to recharge all the gear shown here, with plenty left over. **\$80; www.belkin.com**

THE MP3 PLAYER Apple iPod 20GB

For sheer capacity and usability, the 20GB iPod is unmatched. Add Belkin's \$40 Tune Cast Mobile FM Transmitter, and you can broadcast your iPod's music to any frequency on your FM radio. **\$299, or \$399 for 40GB version; www.apple.com**



THE PDA Dell Axim X30

The Dell Axim X30 is a PDA that has it all: a speedy 624MHz XScale processor, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, and light weight (just under 5 ounces). It's also the fastest Pocket PC we've tested, which means it can handle any application you care to throw at it. **\$349; www.dell.com**

THE NOTEBOOK Toshiba Satellite P25-S670

Since you drive everywhere, travel weight is moot. Go ahead, splurge on the Toshiba Satellite P25-S670, one of our top picks for desktop replacements. It's outfitted with a full complement of audio and video extras, including a TV tuner and a set of RCA ports, so you can set it up as your own private entertainment center when you get to your hotel room. (Say good-bye to those embarrassing video rental charges!) **\$2,499; www.toshiba.com**



THE BAG Kensington Contour Pro 17

The Kensington Contour Pro 17 is one of the few notebook bags big enough to accommodate the girth of a 17-inch notebook. The Toshiba P25 fits inside, though snugly, with plenty of room left over. **\$80; www.kensington.com**



THE ULTIMATE TRAVEL TOOLKIT

TOTAL PRICE

\$4,456

TOTAL TRAVEL WEIGHT

21.8 pounds

Suit: DKNY
Shirt: Hugo Boss
Tie: DKNY

the new working mom

Sweater: Michael Kors
Skirt: Lauren by Ralph Lauren
Shoes: Mui Mui

Who says that business and family can't mix?

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

- Price
- Power
- Ease of Use

With your busy work and personal life, you've got your hands full. You travel on business only once every month or two — but when you go, there's a good chance you're taking your family and grabbing a weekend holiday, too. Even when you're going no farther than the nearest coffee shop for a much-needed double shot of espresso, you want gear that keeps you going without tripping you up.



THE NOTEBOOK Acer Ferrari 3200

The sexy, sporty lines of Acer's Ferrari-branded notebook put it in a class above the drab, utilitarian workaday notebooks most working stiffs must lug about. Yet it's no toy: The Acer Ferrari 3200 is built for business, with superb performance, an ergonomic keyboard, an excellent 15-inch display, and thoughtfully placed ports (including an impressive four USB ports on the left side). Plus, at just 1.4 inches thick and 6.6 pounds, it's svelte enough to go with you almost anywhere. **\$1,999; www.acer.com**

THE PDA PalmOne Zire 31

You want a PDA that keeps your day organized, not an overly expensive corporate plaything with a zillion useless features. The economical PalmOne Zire 31 fits the bill, with decent performance, an adequate screen, and four hours and 13 minutes of battery life. Bonus: The Zire 31 makes a fine MP3 player — just add headphones, an umbrella drink, and a few Israel Kamakawiwo'ole MP3s for an instant, ersatz Hawaiian vacation. **\$149; www.palmone.com**



THE CELL PHONE Sony Ericsson T637

Bluetooth, Internet connectivity, and the ability to check POP3 e-mail accounts make the tiny and stylish T637 a smart choice for busy executives and stay-at-home parents alike. As a bonus, it's got a built-in camera, though its 0.1-megapixel resolution is good only for postage-stamp-size images. The T637 is available from Cingular and T-Mobile. Can't find the T637? Go with Sony Ericsson's older T616 (\$150). **\$130 with activation; www.sonyericsson.com**

THE TRAVEL CASE Pacific Design Rolling Deluxe

No other roll-aboard case comes close to the Rolling Deluxe. One compartment holds your papers (and, optionally, your notebook), and the roomy main compartment holds a change or two of clothes. It's the perfect carry-on for a one- or two-night business trip. **\$95; www.pacificdesign.com**



THE CAMERA Kodak EasyShare LS743

Its slim lines and ultrasimple interface mean that you can use it anywhere. That's important, whether you're trying to memorialize baby's first steps or the first meeting of your startup's board of directors. The LS743 takes excellent 4-megapixel photos with subsecond shutter lag, as well as 640 x 480-pixel videos. **\$349; www.kodak.com**

THE BAG Mobile Edge Natural Suede Tote

Forget the purse. You need a shoulder bag with serious capacity. This fashionable tote bag has a padded interior pocket that's just right for a midsize notebook computer, and plenty of smaller pockets for stashing your camera, keys, lipstick, and business cards. Plus, it's roomy enough that you can also throw in a stack of files, a breakfast bar, and your kid's dolly. **\$170; www.mobileedge.com**



THE ULTIMATE TRAVEL TOOLKIT

TOTAL PRICE
\$2,892

TOTAL TRAVEL WEIGHT
22 pounds

the daily commuter

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

- Portability
- Style
- Price

Whether by rail or road, an office you can take with you

 You won't get to where you want to be by slavishly imitating the office drones who surround you. While you're commuting, you may be working on your screenplay, designing a battlebot, or just catching up on your e-mail, and you need tech that will help you do that without making you too much of a target for muggers. You also want to travel light, since you get around by foot, by bus, by train, whatever it takes. The gear here is easy on your shoulder — and your budget.



THE NOTEBOOK **Apple 12-inch PowerBook G4**

Apple aficionados are used to paying a premium for their portables. Fortunately, you won't have to inflict major wallet damage with the ultraportable 12-inch PowerBook G4, which stands up to its PC cousins on features as well as price. A slot-loading CD-RW/DVD-ROM drive, built-in 802.11g and Bluetooth networking, and a plethora of ports mean this notebook has got just about everything you need to get real work done, while its 4.7-pound weight and 1-inch-thick aluminum case are ready to go anywhere with ease. It's sexy, powerful, and portable. What more could you want? **\$1,599; www.apple.com**



THE MP3 PLAYER **Apple iPod Mini**

Some have knocked its price and its relatively small 4GB capacity, but the iPod Mini is the smallest, sexiest, and easiest-to-use of the portable audio players on the market. Besides, if you're not bent on loading up your *entire* audio collection on it, you'll find the Mini plenty roomy — four gigs is more than enough to hold hundreds of songs. **\$249; www.apple.com**

THE SMART PHONE **PalmOne Treo 600**

The Treo 600 is a little pricey for a phone — but it doubles as a contact manager, calendar, and pocket Web surfing device, which is why we think you'll be willing to shell out a few extra clams for it. Oh yeah, there's also its built-in 0.3-megapixel camera, which takes surprisingly good pictures, and its ability to handle both SMS text messages and e-mail with equal aplomb. Whether checking your messages while waiting for the next train or taking party snapshots, the Treo is up to the task. **\$449; www.palmone.com**



THE USB KEY **Verbatim Store 'n' Go USB Drive**

When you need to grab a few files for a quick transfer between your office desktop and your personal notebook, networking the two machines together (wirelessly or not) is overkill. The quickest, easiest, and most discreet solution is a USB key, like the zippy Verbatim Store 'n' Go. It's also handy for ad hoc backups, installing patches, or grabbing copies of the client list on your last day of work. **\$87 for 256MB; www.verbatim.com**



TOTAL PRICE

\$2,459

TOTAL TRAVEL WEIGHT

8.4 pounds



THE SHOULDER BAG **Spire Nova**

Sure, you could carry a roughed-up messenger bag covered in reflective tape, but you want your coworkers to take you a little more seriously than a lip-ring-bedecked courier. The Spire Nova is a better choice: It works like a messenger bag but looks like an unpretentious briefcase. A removable padded sleeve inside is just the right size for an ultraportable like the 12-inch PowerBook, and there are plenty of pockets for the rest of your gadgets, books, and papers. **\$75; www.spireusa.com**



THE ULTIMATE TRAVEL TOOLKIT

Jeans: Calvin Klein
Polo: DKNY
Shirt: Quicksilver
Jacket: Miss Sixty

the astronaut

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

- 🔴 Airtightness
- 🔴 Radiation protection
- 🔴 Warmth

Must-have gear for commutes of more than 25,000 miles

📌 Three g's of acceleration at liftoff. Strapping yourself to a bulkhead to sleep. Peeing into a funnel attached to a vacuum cleaner. It's all in a day's work for you, the NASA mission specialist. And, let's be honest, nobody relies on high-tech gear quite like you do. One little air leak and it's so long, Major Tom. So when you're getting ready for extravehicular activity ("space walks" to ordinary working Joes), you want the best gear you can get. And in this case, money's no object. *Mobile PC* talked to NASA to compile this list of out-of-this-world gear.



THE SPACE SUIT Extravehicular Mobility Unit

A must for space walks, the space suit protects astronauts from the lethal temperature extremes, relentless radiation, and absolute airlessness of space. The newest model EMU can be sized to fit different astronauts and is certified for up to 25 space walks before servicing. Bonus: With the suit's new jet pack, SAFER, you can fly back to the shuttle in case of an embarrassing untethering incident. Don't leave the air lock without it. **\$2.5 million; www.nasa.gov**

THE HOTEL International Space Station

Scheduled for completion this year, the ISS has run into delays because of cost overruns, NASA budget cuts, and space shuttle safety concerns. But it's already well under way, housing several U.S. and international astronauts at a time and providing space for a variety of zero-gravity experiments. When you need a place to stay in orbit, the 500-ton ISS isn't just your best choice — it's your only choice. **\$100 billion; www.nasa.gov**

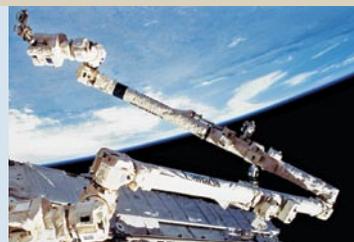


THE TRANSPORTATION Space Shuttle

Containing more than 2.5 million parts, 230 miles of wire, and more than 27,000 insulating tiles, the shuttle is one of the biggest, most complex, and most expensive pieces of mobile technology ever built. But you'll have to wait awhile to book a flight — NASA grounded all shuttle missions after the Columbia disaster in February 2003, and the next mission won't launch until March 2005 at the earliest. Still, for getting into orbit, the shuttle is your best bet — at least until someone wins the X Prize and opens a space-tourism agency. **\$500 million per launch; www.nasa.gov**

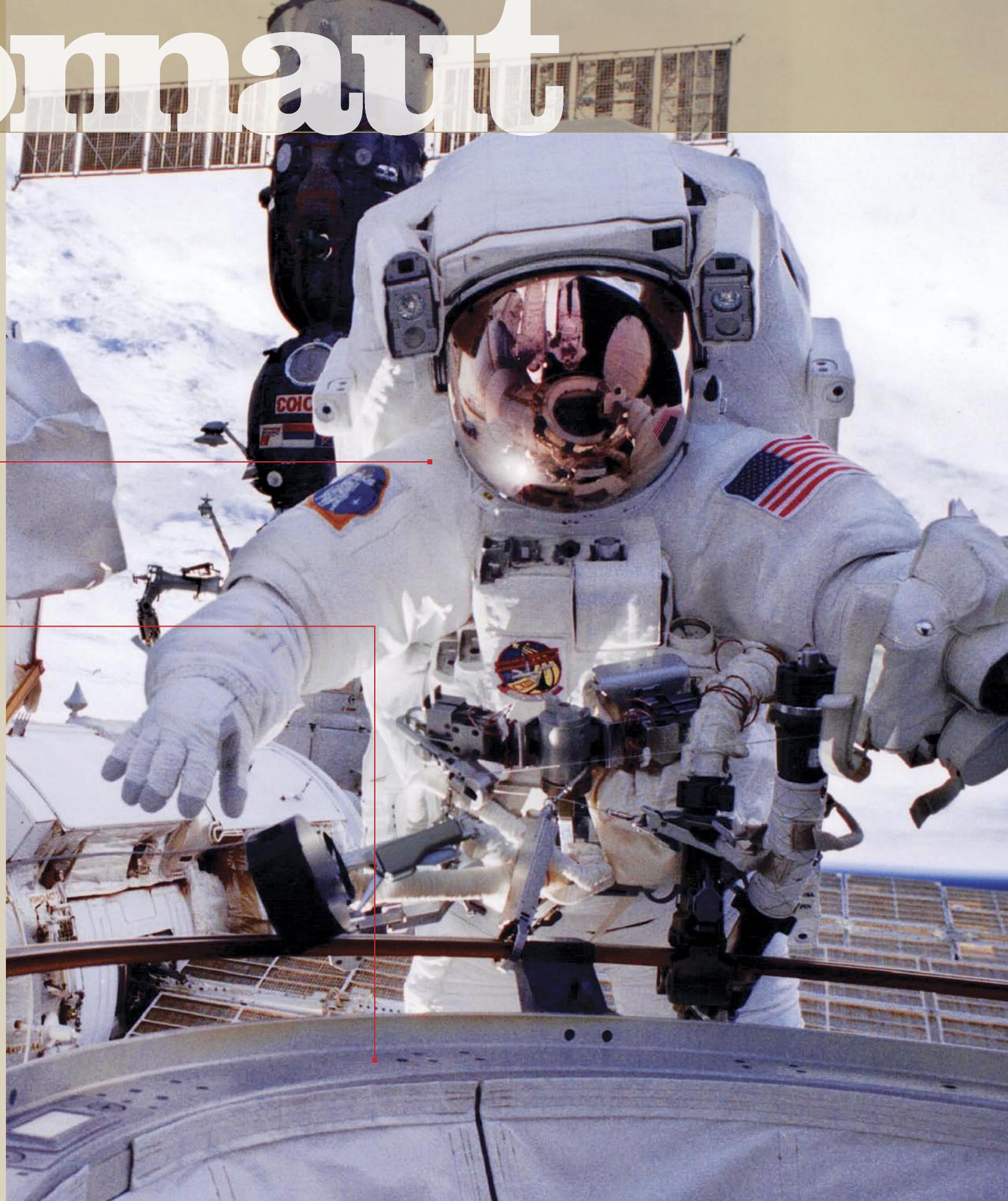
THE CHERRY PICKER Space Shuttle Remote Manipulator System

This 55-foot-long robotic arm is indispensable for assembling components or nabbing space junk as it floats by. With a grappling "hand" at the tip and a track-mounted base, the SSRMS can handle just about anything in orbit. Bonus: It's built by Canadians! **\$200 million; www.mdrobotics.ca**



THE MEAL Space Shuttle Food System

Forget the salt, the pepper, the Diet Coke — and don't even think about opening a bag of potato chips. You need food that stays in its container instead of floating around the cabin, mucking up the instrumentation. That means lots of irradiated and vacuum-sealed meals as well as dehydrated food (just add water, from the shuttle's fuel cells). Also on the menu: tortillas, which don't crumble the way bread or crackers do. **\$26 for 1 pound; www.beefjerky.com**



THE ULTIMATE TRAVEL TOOLKIT

TOTAL PRICE

\$100,702,500,026

TOTAL TRAVEL WEIGHT

5,501,181 pounds