



December 2009

Best Stuff of the Year '09

In an annual ritual of hunting and gathering, our editors sifted through the coolest gear, gadgets, tools, and cars—pretty much every damn thing on the market—to ensure that you end 2009 on a high note. So start making your list

PHOTOGRAPHS BY TOM SCHIERLITZ

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Half Desk, Half Worktable, 100 Percent High Design

You're looking at 220 pounds of desk here, most of it solid steel. Each one is handmade in Long Island City, New York, by a team of craftsmen under the supervision of Mark Albrecht. Inch-thick steel bars are welded together, ground smooth, then rubbed down with an acidic liquid to give them that rich, dark patina. The desk's durability is bunker-worthy: You could whale on it with a sledgehammer without denting it. But it also has finesse. The writing surface is upholstered in leather (which can easily be replaced). The cantilevered base gives a visual lightness and frees up legroom. The long flip-up tray serves as a document holder. Granted, the price may seem exorbitant. But amortize it over the number of years it'll serve you and your offspring. Few investments in this economy are as sound.

Mark Albrecht Leather Desk, \$6,575;
www.suiteny.com