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Taking the guesswork out of Father's Day gifts

By ABIGAIL LEICHMAN
STAFF WRITER

What would Dad like for Father's Day? In case you're clueless, we asked our resident experts for suggestions.

Books

For the father who needs to step up to the plate but doesn't know how, humor columnist Bill Ervolino recommends two new paperbacks from Workman Publishing.

"Dad's Own Housekeeping Book 137 Bright Ideas," by David Bowers (196 pages, \$10.95), includes a 30-minute "emergency house cleaning" that is guaranteed to pass mother-in-law inspection standards.

"Dad's Own Cookbook," by Bob Sloan (304 pages, \$13.95), is a practical guide to preparing dad-friendly meals, even if the father in question doesn't know a waffle iron from a sauté pan.

Garden

"From the Ground Up" columnist Raymond A. Edel thinks Dad would love some ground-breaking products from Yard Butler.

There's the solid-steel **Twist Tiller** (\$26) for blending in fertilizers and mulches, cultivating, aerating and digging; the **Rotary Cultivator** (\$27), whose bladed wheels loosen soil and uproot weeds; the easy-on-the-back **Rocket Weeder** (\$27), which grabs weeds without breaking roots and ejects them where you want them; and the **Core**

Aerator (\$24), which stimulates root growth and strengthens the lawn against drought and heat.

Each tool is 37 inches and about 4 pounds. Find them at many Lowe's and Ace hardware stores or at yardbutler-store.com.

Golf

SkyCaddie SG4 is the gift suggested by Sports Assignment Editor Dave Rivera.

Using GPS satellite, it enables golfers to measure the full depth of the green from any angle of approach and shows distances for all targets and hazards on 11,000 professionally mapped courses. \$350 at larger golf stores, including Golf Galaxy in Paramus, New York Golf Center in Fort Lee and Enterprise Golf Outlet in Secaucus; or call 888-SKY-GOLF.

Is Dad more of a watcher than a putter? Buy him ownership in Callaway Golf, one of 130 public companies linked with **onshare.com** (888-777-6919). For \$39 plus the price of a single share as listed on the stock exchange, the gift includes a framed stock certificate and reference guide for new shareholders.

Movies

Is your father a Western fan? Staff writer Virginia Rohan has good news: **The Sergio Leone Anthology** was released this month.

The boxed widescreen set contains "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly" and remastered editions of "A Fistful of Dollars," "For a Few Dollars More" and "Duck, You

Sucker" (aka "A Fistful of Dynamite"). About \$65 at retailers, including FYE at the Willowbrook Mall, Wayne.

Music/Tech

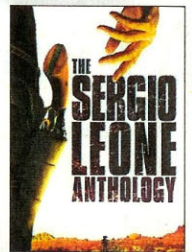
Deputy Features Editor Joe Kirby, our resident techie, is ramped up about **iGuitar** (\$800 at iGuitar.com), a six-string that, with the help of a USB cable, speaks the digital language of 1s and 0s.

Compatible with music-making software on PCs and Macs and available in a rainbow of colors, iGuitar (and its Web-site tutorials) will enable any dad to compose songs and add sounds of a drum kit, piano and orchestra.

If Dad is a guitar legend in his own mind, then the **Guitar Hero** PlayStation series may be easier on the family's ears. The games (about \$40 each) are the equivalent of guitar karaoke, with players using a traditional controller or lightweight replica guitar (another \$40) at retailers including Game Stop in the Bergen Mall, Paramus.

And if he's a really serious shower singer, Sony BMG's new icon-collectibles.com site has a "Rock Star for a Day" package up for auction through Thursday. Bid on a chance for Dad to go to Sony Music Studios in Manhattan for a recording session. He'll get four CDs of his finished work.

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Yard Butler's Rotary Cultivator.