

TECHNO TRENDS

Managing the mess

Inexpensive remedies for dirty floors, grungy carpets and cords gone wild

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If you have tile or hardwood floors in your home, you might want to check out the Steam Mop from Shark. You simply fill the reservoir with water. Tap water is fine, but distilled water is recommended. Attach a microfiber cleaning pad to the base, turn on the machine, and in about 30 seconds, you're good to go.

Just mop your floors as you would with an ordinary mop, but the steam does a great job of loosening dirt and grime and restoring the shine. You don't need to add any cleansers or wax. After you've finished, simply toss the cleaning pad in the washing machine.

If you haven't steamed your floors before, you might want to consider ordering extra pads. The Steam Mop comes with two, but if there is a lot of grime and built-up wax on the surface, the pads are going to get dirty in a hurry.

The Shark weighs only three pounds so it's fairly easy to maneuver and there's plenty of cord. Also worth mentioning is that a "carpet glide" attachment is available so that you can steam clean your rugs.

The Steam Mop retails for around \$80. For more information, visit www.sharksteam.com.

As long as we're on the subject of getting things clean and neat, do all those cords stashed behind your

TV and under your computer desk bother you? If so, you might want to check out some of the devices available from Cable Turtle and Cordbone.

Cable Turtles look like soft yo-yos. Only you flip back the tops, wind the cord around the stem and fold the tops back to where they were. Suddenly, 10 feet of unsightly cable has now been replaced by a colorful little plastic bump.

Cable Turtles come in three sizes and range in price from \$4.99 to \$9.99. There's also a combo pack that contains one of each size for \$16.99. For more information, visit www.cableorganizer.com.

The Cordbone offers a molded piece of plastic with slots at both ends for the cable to enter and leave and a middle section around which you wind the cord. Although not as cute as the Cable Turtle, it's every bit as functional, and it's designed for the spaces behind your entertainment center and under your computer desk.

Cordbone holders come two to a pack for \$16.99. For more information, visit www.cordbone.com.

There's also the Cable Fish Cable Winder for \$3.99. The only real difference is the shape.

Richard T. Ryan writes about technology for the Advance. He may be reached at

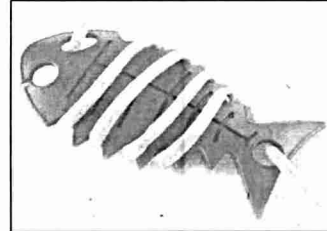


PHOTO COURTESY OF CORDBONE.COM

The Cable Fish Cable Winder organizes the electrical mess behind entertainment centers.

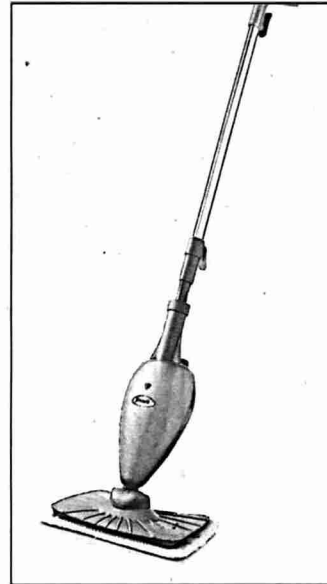


PHOTO COURTESY OF SHARKSTEAM.COM

Fill the Steam Mop with water — tap or distilled — and you're ready to clean those floors.



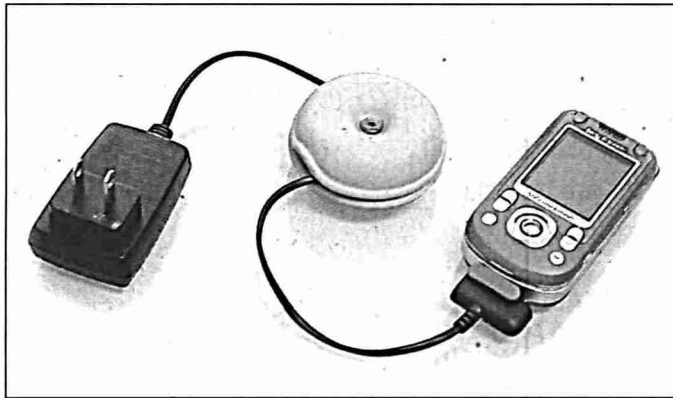


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Cable Turtles can help you wind up all those unsightly wires under your computer desk.

Printing imperfections
present during scanning