

WANTED



FOR SHOW

Folklore has it that yard-dwelling gnomes are actually helpful, nocturnal gardeners. Spruce up greenery with West Elm's **Modern Gnomes**. Unlike the original figurines of mid-1800s Germany, these have been recast in gleaming white porcelain, offering a swanky take on the bearded man. (\$19 each, westelm.com)

CURATED

JAM SESSION...

Nothing is both so on trend and old-fashioned as homemade preserves. Here's what you need to get cooking.

--> Jam technology hasn't evolved much since your great-grandma's days. Still, that doesn't mean new designs of those old tools wouldn't leave her envious. (1) **MAUVIEL's preserving pan** (\$230, mauvielusa.com) is case in point. The Normandy, France-based company has been casting kitchenware since 1830, and its broad copper pan conducts heat evenly to keep your berries from burning. The interchangeable blades and strainers on (2) **OXO's food mill** (\$50, oxo.com) give fruit a refined, hand-pureed texture that a Cuisinart can't approach. Canning can be an unwieldy business, but (3) **RSVP INTERNATIONAL's wide-mouth funnel** (\$14, amazon.com) perches neatly atop jars and (4) **RÖSLE's stainless-steel ladle** (\$37, rosleusa.com) has a sleek, round pouring rim that prevents jam spillage. (5) **FOX RUN's jar lifters** (\$8, acehardware.com) pluck the sealed jars from boiling water without looking like an eyesore in the kitchen. And for showing off the fruits of your labor? We suggest (6) **WECK's Deco and Mold jars** (\$14 for six, weckcanning.com), beloved by jam geeks for their minimal look and foolproof rubber gasket, or Italian-made (7) **BORMIOLI ROCCO's Quattro Stagioni jars** (\$2.50, surlatable.com) with traditional twist-on lids. —MARGARET RHODES





FOR SOUND

the cordless **Roberts Revival Radio** is iPod compatible and has a battery life of 1,120 hours. The beat goes on. (\$328, anthropologie.com)

If the original transistor radio sparked the revolution of rock 'n' roll, there's no telling what this one has in store. Despite its greaser-era look, the cordless **Roberts Revival Radio** is iPod compatible and has a battery life of 1,120 hours. The beat goes on. (\$328, anthropologie.com)

...PARTY SPREAD

Not into DIY? We tasted more than 100 jams in search of bliss in a jar. We found it.

--> The average American eats 4.4 pounds of jams and jellies each year. The sad news? Most of that is plain commercial strawberry. Which is a shame, considering the bounty of extraordinary small-batch jam vying for our taste buds. (1) **SARABETH'S strawberry peach** (\$10, sarabeth.com) consists of toothsome peach chunks suspended in strawberry puree. The bright, floral notes of (2) **TEA TOGETHER'S rhubarb with lemon and angelica** (\$10, teatogether.com) prove rhubarb needn't rely on sweet berries to sing. (3) **THE VIRGINIA CHUTNEY CO.'s balsamic fig chutney** (\$7, virginiachutney.com), laced with orange peel and red-pepper flakes, is a subtly sweet yet piquant spread—and pairs perfectly with a sharp blue cheese. The tiny, plump blueberries in (4) **PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND PRESERVE CO.'s wild blueberry and lemon** (\$9, preservecompany.com) barely made it to bread at all, so irresistible was it straight from the jar. Equally mouth-watering was (5) **LOULOU'S GARDEN'S apricot preserves** (\$9, loulousgarden.com), variations of which founder Casey Havre has been making since her childhood. For the 21-plus crowd, (6) **RARE BIRD'S pear vanilla pinot blanc preserves** (\$10, rarebirdpreserves.com) pairs wine and vanilla bean with hand-harvested fruit. Queen Elizabeth II eats her breakfast with (7) **TIPTREE** jams, and a spoonful of **loganberry** (\$8, sourceatlantique.com), a blackberry-raspberry hybrid, proves her wise. (8) **STONEWALL KITCHEN'S raspberry peach champagne jam** (\$8, stonewallkitchen.com) shows what happens when jam makers step back from the sugar bowl and embrace the pleasant puckeriness of the berry. Have your spoon at the ready for seconds. —KATE ROCKWOOD



WANTED



FOR SAFETY

Child's play? Hardly. Bicycle bells are common sense for urban cyclists. Adorn handlebars with the Japanese-made **Viva Bicycle Bell**. In production since 1974, the brass, chime-like gadget securely screws on (no cheap clasps!), keeping pedaling safe—and musical. (\$20, cooperhewittshop.org)

ARCHIVE

A CUT ABOVE

Empty mailboxes be damned, these elegant and whimsical designs make letter openers as desirable as ever.

/// Paper mail may be going the way of the dodo, but thanks to some major design upgrades, letter openers are here to stay. The once-utilitarian tool has recently become a showcase for top design. That means whimsy galore—saws, propellers, a singular scissor—as well as austere designs that wouldn't feel out of place next to your parents' paperweights. "Almost everything I do has an edge of nostalgia to it," says Acme Studios founder Adrian Olabuenaga, who used a retro pocketknife as inspiration for the Jack letter opener. "I wanted it to be familiar." Indonesia-based designer Singgih Kartono drew upon his own familiarity for Areaware's envelope opener: He modeled the mahogany and sonokeling knife after the bamboo blades local farmers use to clean their tools. "The shape is almost the same with my opener," he says. "It's simple and useful." And if these letter openers never open a letter, that's beside the point—they look good, even in the glow of a computer screen.

—RACHEL ARNDT



DANESE MILANO
Ameland
\$58

CHARLES UNDERWOOD
Kid Leather
\$47

UNCOMMON GOODS
Propeller
\$15

AREAWARE
Envelope opener
\$14

ALESSI
Stila
\$38

UNCOMMON GOODS
Saw
\$15

ATYPYK
Scissor
\$41

ACME STUDIOS
Jack
\$30

UPGRADE

PHOTO SHOP

Leica moves 35-millimeter film into the 21st century.



/// "It literally constitutes the optical extension of my eye," said Henri Cartier-Bresson of the Leica rangefinder camera he used to introduce the world to gritty-yet-lovely street photography more than 50 years ago. Today, the M7—one of the only analog 35-millimeter cameras left in a field driven by megapixels—keeps that allure (and film) alive with an electronically timed shutter and an aperture-priority mode for faster picture taking. Beneath it all: the ability to go manual. Leica's famed rangefinder shows "what you're photographing, and also what's beyond the frame," says Justin Stailey, Leica's M-system specialist. That means sharp focus while staying "compact and portable," he says, helping capture "life as it unfolds in front of you." (*M7 with standard lens, \$6,495, bhphotovideo.com*) —RA