

SMART PENS

It's been said that the pen is mightier than the sword. Add some modern bells and whistles and it becomes mightier still—as demonstrated by these high-tech versions, which can do way more than write. Use them to record entire lectures, convert handwriting to text and measure objects; one even keeps track of itself. These once single-function tools have evolved to become efficient multitaskers.

BY CAMEL QUIN



LIVESCRIBE 3

If you want to record absolutely every moment—of a meeting, a lecture—but only write down the key points, this pen is your new best friend. When you use the Livescribe 3 with its special notebook, your notes and drawings are automatically stored digitally; handwriting even can be turned into text. Meanwhile, pairing your phone or tablet with the device lets you capture the corresponding audio so you never miss a word. Click on the PDF of your notes and you can hear exactly what was being said at the time. \$179.95; livescribe.com

CROSS PEERLESS TRACKR

When you invest in a luxury pen, you want to keep it forever. To help, this one from Cross comes with Trackr, a clever built-in tracking technology that lets you find the pen's last-known location via app at any time. The data is crowd-sourced from an army of more than 1 million users worldwide. Conversely, if you misplace your paired phone, you can find it with a tap of a button on the pen—even when your phone's on silent mode. The Peerless Trackr comes with a black ink cartridge and either blue or black body. \$250; cross.com

INSTRUMENTS 01

One end of this tool acts as a pen, pencil or stylus. The other, however, is a roller that precisely measures distances, so you can accurately scale from technical drawings or measure real-world objects, even curved ones. A laser helps you align the Instruments 01 perfectly, and it's paired with a companion app that logs the dimensions quickly and easily. It's handy for creative industries but also proffers great bragging rights—you can impress clients by scaling off a drawing using just the end of your pen. \$149.99; instruments.com