Everyday Objects.

Gift Guide.
In 2002 I was running a crew of cousins and friends building a barn on an island in Maine.

As often happens on job sites, we ran out of tape measures. My mother was going off-island and offered to pick up replacements. At the time a Stanley Fat Max was the only tape measure I’d known, but my mother for whatever fortuitous reason came back with 25-foot Tajima tape measures, and I have never strayed since.

In the 20 years since that barn summer I’ve bought over 100 of these. The Tajima 25 is the perfect tape measure. The minimal case, devoid of rubber padding, is slim enough to slip into pants’ pockets. The yellow exterior makes it easy to spot, while the white tape ruler is easy to read. And — in what must be experienced to fully appreciate — the tape retracts as if on rails.

To build this gift guide, we asked 40+ designers, makers, artists, chefs, and other creatives to tell us their favorite everyday object. Taken together their answers are a love letter to the objects that make doing everyday things delightful: measuring, cutting, brewing, cooking, building.

These unheralded objects evoke a deep loyalty in us. We’re drawn to their utility or the shape of them, but the objects themselves also shape us. When considered as a whole, these objects reveal an intimate look at our everyday routines and rituals.

When you find the right object, you cherish it. You keep it at hand and replace it habitually, almost out of necessity. By offering us a bridge to a slightly better day — a more precise cut, a more desirable outcome — these objects earn their keep. They give us a lifeline to greater satisfaction in the routine of our daily tasks. Yet the objects themselves are often — as one contributor to this gift guide suggested — magically mundane.

Some objects simply do their job well. This gift guide is an offering of those objects, from people all over the country who work with wood, textiles, paint, paper, music, food, and more. We hope you find the same satisfaction we did in learning about them. Happy gifting.

- Brendan

Contributors

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Ravenhill Studio
Sally Breer
Scout Regalia
Stephen Kenn
Sue Chan
Tanveer Badal
Tanya Aguiña
Terremoto
Waka Waka
Wax Paper
Wrk_Shp
Yun Hai Taiwanese Pantry
“I love it and buy way too many.”

"It's the perfect gardening multi-tool in that you can dig holes with it, use the serrated edge for minor trimming, and if I were ever to encounter a bear in my garden, I'd rather that encounter happen while wielding this sharp menacing tool. RAWR."
“Delightfully boring in its effectiveness. Of all the tea strainers I’ve tried, this one is the best.”

Hario V60.
Submitted By: Makoto Mizutani of Scout Regalia

“Making coffee is our morning ritual, it’s a time for quiet and prepares us for the day.”

Hand Carved Coffee Spoon.
Submitted By: Angie Myung and Ted Vadakan of Poketo

“I use this in the kitchen to sweep coffee grinds and crumbs off the counter.”

Shuro Brush.
Submitted By: Jeni Afuso

Buy here
“Very sharp and very strong for their size. Good for anything from lobster shells to chicken bones to paper.”

Joyce Chen Scissors.
Submitted By: Lauren and Peter Lemos of Wax Paper

“Ars SE45 Floral Shears.
Submitted By: Block Shop Textiles

“It’s rare to find a cleverly designed product that can still perform well with precision cuts. We love that it’s so useful, tiny and compact, we carry it around with us everywhere we go.”

Nail Clipper by KAI.
Submitted By: Airi Isoda and Ryan Upton of Wrk_Shp

“Lightweight, sharp as hell, best lil’ snippers for the greenthumb in your life.”

Niwaki Mini Snips.
Submitted By: Rhys Ryan-Humphrey of Ravenhill Studio

Everyday Objects.
“For both garment repair and construction. This is an amazing shop that sells indigo from Japan via Taiwan (and ships to the US). Taiwan was once occupied by Japan and they have a big indigo craft scene there and people go crazy for it.”

Submitted By: Lisa Cheng Smith of Yun Hai Taiwanese Pantry

“So essential to my packing of orders and nice to use with the cutter incorporated in the stand. Small thing that makes packing much more delightful.”

Submitted By: Linda Hsiao of Knotwork LA

“I have one for every team member.”

Submitted By: Bari Ziperstein

“I have a few and have forever. I use them for everything.”

Submitted By: Claire Nereim of Plant Planet

“Everyday Objects.”
“Protects my ear drums and me from my thoughts by keeping me tuned in to tunes, podcasts. Let’s me know if I got a call I want to answer and says to others that I’m not trying to chit chat rn.”

“Tajima 25 Hi Lock Tape Measure.
Buy here
Submitted By: Brendan Ravenhill

“We eat these like snacks at the studio.”

“3M WorkTunes Hearing Protector.
Buy here
Submitted By: Dan John Anderson

“Polyte One Hand Pressure Sprayer.
Buy here
Submitted By: Chen Chen of Chen Chen & Kai Williams

“They don’t slip off my face like other safety goggles and they are the epitome of style.”

“Pyramex Pathfinder Safety Glasses.
Buy here
Submitted By: Hannah Go of Ravenhill Studio

Everyday Objects.
“You don’t have to be super precious with it.”

“Because after you’ve broken 3 glass ones.”

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**Molcajete Mortar & Pestle.**

Submitted By: Tanya Aguiñiga

Buy here

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**Enamelware Cup.**

Submitted By: Marissa Aguiñiga of Ravenhill Studio

Buy here

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**Microplane Rasp Grater.**

Submitted By: Melissa Iseman of Ravenhill Studio

Buy here

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**Bodum Coffee Maker.**

Submitted By: Sally Breer

Buy here
"A must for keeping vinyl albums spic-and-span before every spin. It's not a glamorous object but it sure makes the music shine."

"They are a staple. A ‘can’t live without’ work boot. I order a half size up."

"Swings are just disarmingly fun. As for authorship, it is like a wheel or a pocket. Who invented it? It doesn’t matter. We can all enjoy it regardless."

"It just feels like a natural extension of my body."

Antistatic Record Brush.

Submitted By: Mark Frosty McNeill of dublab

"A must for keeping vinyl albums spic-and-span before every spin. It’s not a glamorous object but it sure makes the music shine."

Pallabrousse Legion boots by Palladium.

Submitted By: Jason Koharik

"They are a staple. A ‘can’t live without’ work boot. I order a half size up."

Commercial Swing.

Submitted By: Matt Gannon

"Swings are just disarmingly fun. As for authorship, it is like a wheel or a pocket. Who invented it? It doesn’t matter. We can all enjoy it regardless."

Ona Presidio Camera Strap.

Submitted By: Tanveer Badal

"It just feels like a natural extension of my body."
“It’s super basic but I always trust it.”

“I truly use it every day and have bought these for family members as gifts.”

“[Conair Boar Hair Brush.](#)

Submitted By: Mercedes Johnson-Castleman

of [Ravenhill Studio](#)

[Buy here](#)

Goody Bobby Pin.

[Buy here](#)

Submitted By: Jess Brown of [Lady J Presents/RISD](#)

“I grew up with Goody Brand so it holds a special place in my heart.”

Soap by [Marisa Takal](#)

[Buy here](#)

Submitted By: Shin Okuda

of [Waka Waka](#)
“I think there will always be a place for this object.”

“Not only is it the most crisp, smooth pen for drawing and writing, aesthetically I find it to be a very pleasing object. It’s all function, super simple, with a tiny bit of flair — a yellow cap on top and a slightly shimmery black finish on the body.”

“I have my mom’s from grad school.”
“Numerous times I’ve dipped a brush into the water/tea I’m supposed to be drinking. So a closed water bottle makes this impossible to do but this one is also colorful enough to catch my eye and remind me to hydrate.”

“They look good and work well.”

“An absolute must-have for anyone doing accurate work. It’s a ruler, a straightedge, cuts open boxes, sometimes a makeshift eating utensil, and a constant companion in our shop. I’ve had one of these in my pocket for almost 20 years.”
“It fits in my hand perfectly. I would say it feels instinctive, but I think it’s just as likely that my instincts themselves were shaped by this object, informing my sense of what a cup or glass should feel like.”

Stainless Steel Cup.

Submitted By: Hrishikesh Hirway

Buy here
or at your local Indian grocer

Japanese Bamboo Basket.

Submitted By: Kozy Kitchens

Buy here

Vintage Tupperware Steamer.

Submitted By: Alyssa Urias of Ravenhill Studio

“The vegetables come out perfect every single time.”

Chonk Mug by Josephine Noel.

Submitted By: Alyffie Wilkerson of Ravenhill Studio

Buy here
Dexter Russell 4” Pancake Turner.
Buy here
Submitted By: Liam Montano of Ravenhill Studio

StarPack and Farberware Spatulas.
Buy here
Submitted By: Sue Chan

Gestura Spoon.
Buy here
Submitted By: Spencer Bezaire of Eszett

Everyday Objects.

The do-it-all spoon. You can start an old Honda with one.”

Regular Spoon.
Buy here or at your local thrift shop
Submitted By: Peter Lowe of Ravenhill Studio