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RELEASE: OCTOBER

STREET CRED

HomePlug

The Play-Off: Microsoft

Oster In2itive

The Gist: Whip It Good

Oster's In2itive mixes up 40-plus preprogrammed sequences designed by chefs to eliminate guesswork. Pick your dish on the LCD screen, then leave it to the three reversible-action blades to spin as long as needed, change speeds, and stop. Never again will your smoothie come out like salsa or your crumbled-nut topping like baby food. Best of all, in the event of some bizarre crisis, the blender's Lexan jar is bulletproof.

- Sam Grawe

Oster: (800) 334 0759, www.oster.com.

RELEASE: NOVEMBER

Novatel Wireless Merlin G301

The Gist: The Mother Of All Wireless Cards

Nervous users of financially shaky Iridium or dead Ricochet can relax: Novatel Wireless' Merlin G301 keeps you and your PC online wherever your itinerary takes you. Available from GPRS providers AT&T and VoiceStream, the GSM/GPRS PC card connects your voice and your data through a blistering (for wireless) 53 Kbps over GPRS networks and an old, reliable 14.4 on GSM systems. And with triband compatibility, it works in North America, Europe, and Asia.

- James Turner

Novatel Wireless: +1 (858) 320 8800, www.novatelwireless.com.

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