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Tipsy? Then you might need this

By Brian Bethel
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Look, we're not your mother, OK?

But New Year's Eve arrives Sunday, and while we'd never encourage you to party like it was the last year of the last century, some of you will.

That's why you shouldn't leave the house, bar or barn dance without the BACtrack home breathalyzer.

Why let an officer of the law tell you you're drunk, wasting valuable tax dollars, when you and your hedonistic pals can figure it out yourselves?

The size of a cell phone, the pocket wonder is easy to use and sanitary to boot. There's no mouthpiece required, thank goodness.

It's powered by KHN Solutions' BluFire alcohol sensing technology, which the company says provides "unrivaled accuracy."

Patent-pending light tubes provide an easy target for users to blow into, while an indicator light flashes to signal when to start and stop blowing - great considering you'll be reduced to only the use of your reptilian brain-parts.

In all seriousness, driving drunk isn't funny, and this is something that could actually be used to give a person an accurate, visual deterrent to driving.

Is Bob insisting he's not hammered again? Prove it to him, and then, when he can't argue, get him a safe ride home.

I suppose you also could use the thing to make certain that you're not more intoxicated than you think you are, assuming you can drink and remain that responsible.

The BACtrack is a bit expensive at \$79.99, but it's potentially quite useful within its admittedly limited context. And I wouldn't be surprised if law enforcement didn't express some interest.

And again: If you do drink on New Year's Eve, call a cab or a sober friend, even if there's no BACtrack in sight.

Chances are you don't really need one to know when you've had more than enough.

BACtrack home breathalyzer

- Best feature: It's very portable and highly accurate.
- Worst feature: If you need something like this, you probably need a designated driver anyway.
- I recommend: Interesting, even useful, but limited to what it is.

Have an idea for our Gadget Guy? Contact Brian Bethel at bethelb@reporternews.com

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