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Personal breathalyzer: Don't leave home without it



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Written by asap

Friday, 29 December 2006

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We promise we're not trying to rain on your "party like it's 2007" parade.

But considering the fact that New Year's Eve produces more DUI arrests and alcohol-related fatalities than almost any other night, remember to play it safe -- no DUIs, no accidents, no close calls.

KHN Solutions, which distributes blood alcohol content testers to professional organizations, has a new BACtrack personal breathalyzer that aims to take the anxiety out of New Year's celebrations. As sleek as a cell phone, the BACtrack gives an accurate blood alcohol concentration in seconds. (There are several other personal breathalyzers on the market.)

"We sell this to every different type of consumer -- parents who are testing their kids, people who have had one or more DUIs, who don't want another one and want to know their exact level at all time," says Keith Nothacker, president of KHN Solutions.

So how does the thing work?

THE DEVICE

BACtrack -- a personal breathalyzer which tests blood alcohol content

HOW IT WORKS

Hold the BACtrack a half inch from your mouth and breathe into the tube on the end. An indicator light flashes to signal when to start and stop blowing. BAC appears on the screen in seconds.

THE RANGE

It has a range of .00 -.40 percent. (The legal limit is .08).

THE SPECS

It's the size of a cell phone (4 inches long and less than a half-inch thick.) No mouthpiece is required, so you don't feel germly sharing it with friends. You can blow into either side and it can be used over and over again.

THE DOWNSIDE

If the police stop you, they might not be interested in hearing about your self-administered breathalyzer test. Needs 2 AA batteries. It has to be recalibrated each year. Not sold in stores.

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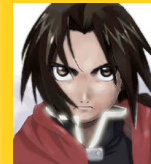
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FullMetal Alchemist (34)



"Humankind cannot gain anything without first giving something in return. To obtain, something of equal value must be lost. That is Alchemy's first law of Equivalent Exchange. In those days, we really believed that to be the world's one, and only truth."

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IT'S BEEN SAID

"You can feel a certain way, but until you see the exact level on a screen, you really don't now how intoxicated you are," says Nothacker. "Once police test you roadside, it's really too late.

"We found that once people bring it out, it's just a very social item," he says. "People want to share it and encourage others to test their alcohol level."

THE PRICE

\$79.99 (comes with a leather case, instructions, one-year warranty).

WHERE TO GET IT:

Bactrack.com

Read more at: <http://asap.ap.org/stories/1114499.s>.



What is up FoCo? I am a recent college graduate of Minnesota State University Moorhead. After recieving my B.A. in English and Mass Communications this past August I moved down to Colorado. I enjoy long walks on the beach, candlelight dinners, and heavy metal. My hobbies include reading and writing, music, movies, and getting drunk. Some of my favorite contemporary authors include Bret Easton Ellis, Chuck Palahniuk, and Kurt Vonnegut. My top movies are anything directed by Kubrick. I enjoy listening to anything that rocks. Right now I am just trying to get to know Colorado and FoCo better. Mostly in order to find the best drink specials on each day that ends in Y. So if you know where I can get a cheap drunk on, let me know! --Drew



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A Breath of Fresh Air (21)



Felix Wong is an outdoor enthusiast living in Fort Collins. A mechanical engineer by day, he is especially passionate about bicycling, running, and backpacking.

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