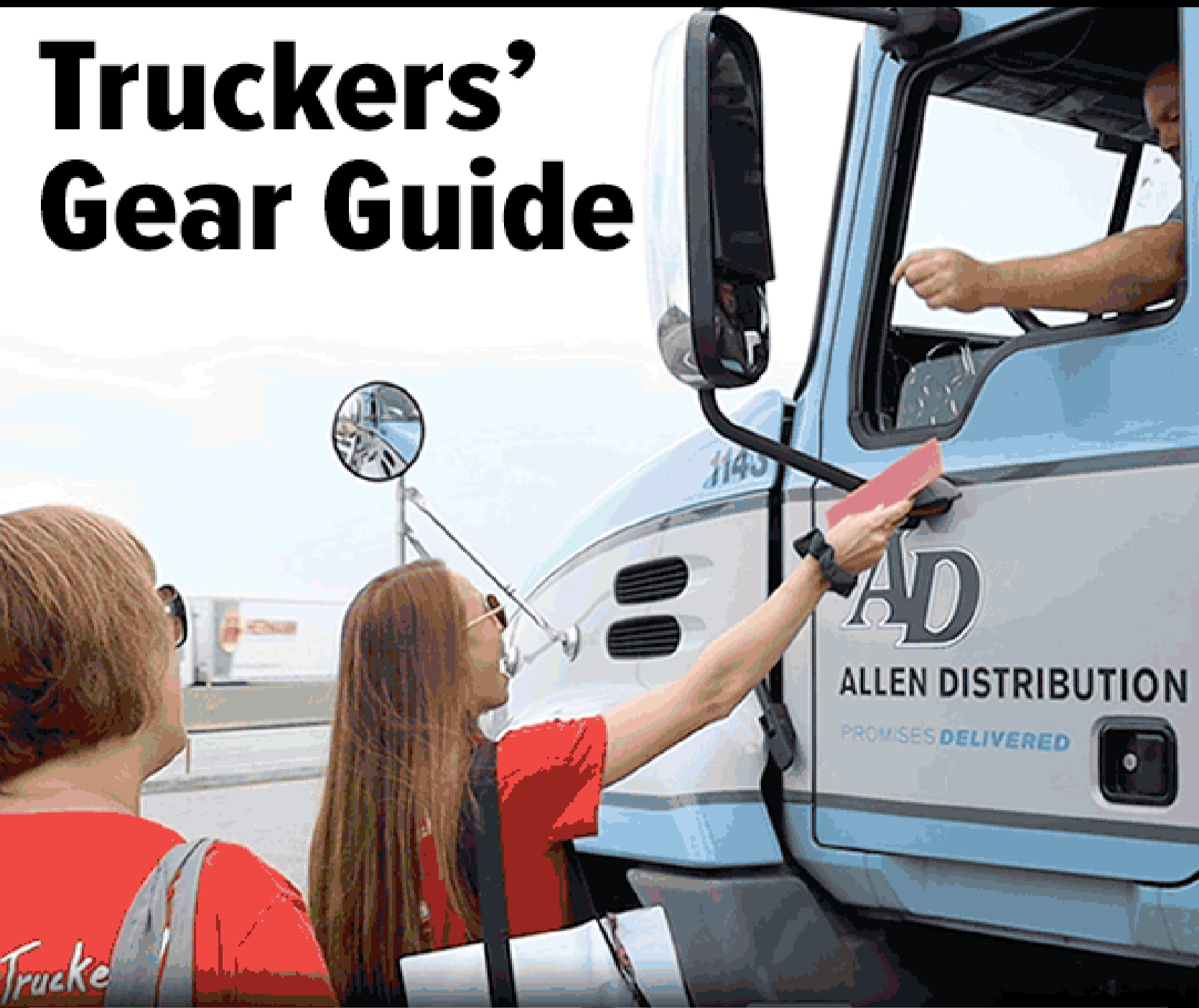


Truckers' Gear Guide



Trucker Appreciation
Praise and Gratitude

Get Packing
Packing Tips
from the Experts

Spin To Win!

Gear Up
for Fall



Buyer's Guide
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FAMILY OF BRANDS

Fall is Here

Top Products for Driving into Cool Weather

By David Hollis, Editor, Truckers News

For the men and women who keep us up to date on what our weather will be, September 1 marks the beginning of what they call "meteorological autumn." For parents with school-age children, Labor Day, September 6, is when life transitions from summer to fall and all of the kid activities that come with it. But, September 22 officially begins autumn, which many in the trucking industry – even in these strange days – see as the time when some aspects of driving heat up as the days cool down.

However you view it, autumn is here, and it's time to ensure you and your truck have the gear necessary to deal with the changes in the weather as well as the business cycle. Here are a few things to add to your "must-have" list for fall and some that will help you transition into the next seasonal change that arrives December 21.

RoadPro 12-Volt Heated Fleece Blanket



One thing for certain about autumn, the weather can change from morning to night or as you travel from one part of the country to another. Because of this, you need to have gear that can adapt as quickly as you do.

RoadPro has a 12-volt heated blanket that can provide the right amount of warmth and comfort when the weather changes.

Made of polar fleece, it has an 8-foot-long cord that plugs into your 12-volt outlet.

It comes in two sizes: 58" x 42.5" and 57" x 27" and is available at truck stops, travel centers and online.

BlackCanyon Outfitters Sherpa-Lined Vest



This is a true fact about fall: many days are too chilly to not have on an extra layer, but are too warm to wear a coat.

That's when it makes sense to have this sherpa-fleece lined canvas vest at hand. It is warm, but not bulky, and is easy to throw on when you hop out of your truck to refuel or run into a truck stop for coffee or a meal.

These durable vests come in black and a tan color BlackCanyon calls "spice" in sizes large to 3XL.

BlackCanyon also offers two colors of its sherpa-lined polar fleece jacket, and two colors of its sherpa-lined fleece hoodie. Both styles come in sizes large to 3XL.

BlackCanyon Outfitters gear and apparel can be found at truck stops and travel centers.

Manhattan Portage Atlas Sling V2



Just as your tractor-trailer is a mass of moving parts, so is your driving life. Often, you have numerous small bits and bobs you need to keep track of and also keep handy. The change from summer to fall is the ideal to double check how organized you are. The Atlas Sling V2 will keep you and your stuff properly organized, and also reduce the possibility of something you need not being where you need it. It has several internal pockets as well as multi-width interior MOLLE-webbing, padded notebook slip pocket, zipper pocket, and three pen holders. The adjustable,

detachable shoulder strap with quick-release buckle allows you to carry it securely. And, at 8.3" x 4.5", it's of a size to hold plenty but not be overwhelming.

[Available online for \\$89.](#)

BlackCanyon Outfitters Weighted Throw



Having a weighted blanket in your sleeper berth is not just about staying warm. For many, it's also about feeling not just more comfortable but also safer, more secure, and less anxious. Weighted blankets are often recommended by physical and occupational therapists to help people who may have anxiety, depression, insomnia, restless leg syndrome and even children who may have attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). Simply put, a weighted blanket feels like a hug, and

can be especially calming at bedtime. BlackCanyon Outfitters, one of the RoadPro Family of Brands, offers a weighted throw that might just make bedtime on your truck more relaxing. The 48" x 72" gray throw is just the right size to add to your bunk. It weighs 12 lbs, just enough to help you feel more settled, so you sleep through the night.

Available at truck stops and travel centers and [available online for \\$39.99.](#)

12-Volt 15oz. Premium Heated Travel Mug



This is the time of year when iced tea and cold coffee give way to hot beverages, and the key word here is "hot". Few things are as disappointing as driving along, reaching for your cup of truck stop coffee, and finding it has cooled off considerably.

Popping it in the microwave is not an option as you drive down the interstate. What is a good solution is the 15-ounce, heated travel mug that plugs into your truck's 12-volt outlet and keeps your coffee or other hot beverage at a consistent temperature. It has five different temperature settings, a non-slip bottom, and fits neatly into your truck's cup holder. And, it has a 5-foot-long, fused power cord.

Available at travel centers, truck stops, big box stores and [online for about \\$49.99.](#)

Gerber ComplEAT



The change of seasons can also mean for some a change of eating habits. Not just what you eat, but where. Cooler weather may force you to take more meals in your truck, and you need to have the tools to do that successfully and conveniently. Gerber's ComplEAT tool has all the bases covered. It contains a fork, spoon, spatula, and four-function multi-tool that nest for transport as well as snap together to convert into functional tongs. There's no need for a load of kitchen utensils if you have this in your cab.

[Available online for \\$29.](#)

Sealskinz Waterproof Cold-Weather Work Gloves



There's no two ways about it, the arrival of autumn also means the arrival of cooler/colder weather and if you're outside your truck you need to protect your hands. These gloves use what the company calls "Fusion Control" to create windproof, waterproof three-layer performance with the dexterity of a single-layer glove. This technology bonds the glove's three layers — lining, outer shell, and waterproof membrane — into one.

This eliminates movement between layers,

providing precise grip control ideal for outdoor work.

They come in sizes small, medium, large and extra large.

[Available online for \\$95.](#)

Fall's arrival is a warning signal of what's to come. While you should enjoy the change of seasons and the fall colors as you drive, you can also use the season as an opportunity to get ready for the more difficult and demanding season of winter.

Properly outfitted, you can use fall to do an in-depth, and detailed pre-trip of your truck inside and out. Make sure you:

- Are ready to swap your lightweight summer clothes for heavier items suitable for colder weather
- Ensure your truck's toolbox has anything you may need for cold weather driving
- Give your truck and trailer a thorough once-over to ensure you have no mechanical problems lurking that could leave you in the breakdown lane during the first snow
- Check in with your company's maintenance shop to ensure your truck is up to snuff for the added demands of cooler/colder weather
- Have someone check all of your tires to be sure they have adequate tread
- Take time to study the routes you normally travel to identify not just your regular stops, but also identify other places to stop for fuel, food, and parking in case you have to wait out bad weather ■

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Get Packing

Packing Tips from the Experts

You left the house before the sun rose and are about to stop for the night after making it about 600 miles from where you started in the early hours of the morning. The temperature has dropped unexpectedly about 30 degrees since you left home, and you suddenly remember that your warmer coat is still hanging in the closet at home.

Packing everything you need in your truck's cab can be a struggle as you certainly can not fit everything from home that you would like to take with you. That is why a little planning can go a long way to ensure you always have what you need.

If you drive long-distance, weather can change, and you need to be prepared no matter what time of year.

We recently reached out to a few pro drivers to share some of their advice.

"I always pack for the unexpected," said Thomas Miller, who has been driving for over 18 years and a captain for The American Road Team. "Making sure I have cooler clothes in the winter and a winter coat even in the summer." He pointed out that if you drive long-distance, weather can change, and you need to be prepared no matter what time of year.

Gary Johnson, an owner-operator specializing in heavy haul freight, lists what he needs to take on the truck and then marks everything off as he loads up. "I always make sure I have an overabundance of socks," he said with a laugh.

"There is nothing worse than wet socks!"

You may also find that laundry machines at the local truck stop you chose are limited, or there may not be a laundry at all in some cases. "Make sure you have plenty of clothes," said Bill Weaver, "and that you are prepared for the season you are driving in." Pack enough clothes and the right clothes for the entire run, and comfortable and not restrictive clothes since you are in a seated position for long periods. He also said that having the right amount of groceries and staples on the road in case food options are limited is necessary.

Your truck is your home away from home, so take what you need to keep your truck clean and organized.

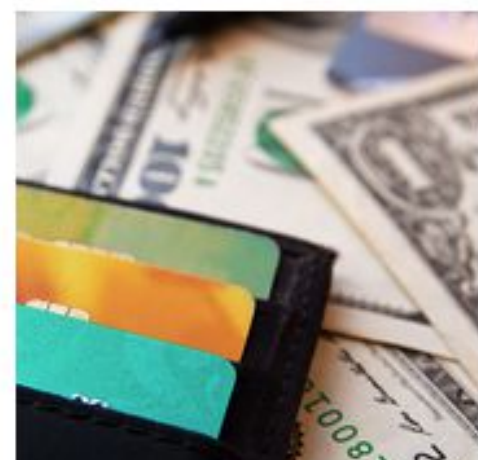


"The number one thing I would recommend is that you remember to pack any specific medication you take and that you have enough for not only the time you think you will be out but provisions in case you end up being out longer than expected," said Robert Greene, who has been driving a truck since 1986. "Make sure you also have some over-the-counter medications if you get sick, like ibuprofen, cold medicine, or

something for stomach upset."

Greene also stressed that your truck is your home away from home, so take what you need to keep your truck clean and organized. When you stop for the day, you know where the things you need are and have a safe and clean space to rest.

Others advised to buy a good shower bag or shower caddy and fill it with the toiletries you use daily. Make sure you check that you have plenty for your time away, so you aren't stuck without your favorite shampoo or soap.



Bob and Linda Caffee drive team and are often out for long periods. They may leave when it is very hot but come home to snow on the ground, so they are veterans of planning well. "Once we left home without my computer charging cord, and it was a mess trying to find one," said Linda. "I have learned to keep one set of charging cords on the truck and one set at home." She also pointed to a time when her bank card expired, but luckily Bob's expired at a different time. They recommend always checking the expiration dates on your card before you head out to make sure it will not expire before you get home. It is also a good

idea to have another way to pay for things while on the road – like another credit card or cash should your bank card not work in a location or if your bank flags your card for fraudulent activity because you are traveling cross country.

It is also a good idea to build your own emergency kit.

The Caffees also travel with their German Shepard, Texas, and recommend you check to make sure you have your pet's essentials as well. "We once forgot Texas's leash, and that required a mad hunt to find one."



Relying on the food available when you stop for the night may not be the best for your health or wallet. Make sure you have plenty of options on your truck to make a meal or a healthy snack. If you don't currently cook your own meals, you may want to consider doing so as this too will save you money and control calories. Check out some of RoadPro's 12-volt appliances that can provide a hot meal and take up very little space in your truck. You will also want to have plenty of water to

keep hydrated. Kenyette Godhigh-Bell, an owner-operator, advised she always travels with a shaker bottle and cup to make her favorite health drink. She utilizes this to keep her energy up and ensure she is getting the proper nutrition while on the road. She also always make sure she has her vitamins and supplements with her to keep her healthy.

It is also a good idea to build your own emergency kit. With the crazy weather that we have had in the last few years, it is hard to predict just what you may encounter. Most drivers advised that you should have a good first aid kit, non-perishable foods, extra water, a small tool kit, flashlight, extra batteries, pocket knife, and a blanket. Invest in a waterproof or tactical backpack or bag and store all these items safely for easy access.

No matter how long you have been driving, whether you are new to the industry or a seasoned veteran, you WILL at one time or another forget to pack something you need. Fortunately, you will be able to find the essentials in most travel and truck stops, but remember that some of those items may not always be at the best price. With a little bit of planning before you head out and creating your checklist, you can always make sure you have what you need.

Here is a list to get you started:

- Pants/shorts
- Shirts/long and short sleeve
- Socks
- Underwear
- Sleepwear
- Jacket
- Boots and Sneakers
- Shower Shoes
- Laundry bag
- Sunglasses
- Gloves
- Shower Bag
- Shower Shoes
- Razors
- Deodorant
- Soap/Body Wash
- Shampoo
- Medication (both prescribed and over the counter)
- Toothbrush/Toothpaste
- Paper towels
- Disinfectant wipes
- Trash bags
- Emergency Kit
- Plates, bowls, cutlery
- Non-perishable food
- Water
- Cash
- Credit card or bank card
- Health insurance card
- Charging Cables for Computer and Phone ■

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Praise and Gratitude

By Kim McDonnell

Each year, a week in September is set aside for Trucker Appreciation. This year that week is September 12 – 18. Many drivers I talk to say truck drivers should be appreciated all year and not just one week. RoadPro would agree that praise and gratitude should be shared with truckers for more than just one week, especially with what has transpired in the last 18 months.

This year more than ever, truck drivers should be proud of what they have done to keep America moving in a time of crisis.

Not only were truckers considered essential and working through the entire pandemic, but they also were subjected to conditions that were not ideal. Lack of food options, safe places to park, closed facilities, not being able to use bathrooms at the shipper, the list goes on and on. Stories filled the news of drivers, who were bringing everyone all of what they needed while not having their own needs met.



This year more than ever, truck drivers should be proud of what they have done to keep America moving in a time of crisis. Most would say it wasn't any remarkable feat, and they were just doing their job. But one thing that was evident was that more of the general public realized that we would have nothing without trucks. Maybe some would say that isn't true - but I have seen it, I have heard it, from those that went out of their way to show that truck drivers are appreciated. From a guy in North Carolina who cooked up free bar-b-q meals to serve to drivers to the women in Arkansas who handed out bags filled with hand sanitizer, masks, and toiletries,

members of the community took it upon themselves to make sure that truck drivers knew they were appreciated. An Alabama high school girl started Project Feed a Trucker, and she and her mom made sack lunches and shared them with any trucker who stopped at a rest area on I-85. A 13-year-old West Virginia whose dad is a trucker used his allowance to buy food for truckers. These are only a few of the many stories I heard about people that realized those things they conveniently got delivered to their door all were because truckers never stopped.



If anything, many truck drivers felt there was more of a mission to keep things running as smoothly as possible to keep shelves stocked, businesses running, and getting hospital's much-needed supplies. And for that, we are truly grateful for your service and dedication.

We have all seen the statistics – what would happen if trucks stopped? Within 24 hours, we would run out of basic supplies, mail and package delivery would cease within one day, food shortages would begin, fuel for our vehicles would become scarce – and that is just in the first two days. I don't even want to imagine a world without truck drivers. Thank you for being out there and for keeping American moving – RoadPro would like to extend our Praise and Gratitude to you. Happy Trucker Appreciation, we are thankful for you every day. ■

BUYER'S GUIDE

FROM **TRUCKER GEAR**

PRESENTED BY



Bluetooth Technology

Few things have improved the comfort, safety and productivity of the American trucker more than something you can't even see. This godsend for drivers is the technology that allows one of your devices to talk to another: Bluetooth, the quirky radio waves named for an ancient Danish King, Herald Bluetooth.

Wirelessness is essential to pro truckers because it facilitates hands-free operation of devices while driving, something of increasing importance as more and more police agencies are on the lookout for drivers using their devices when they shouldn't.

Today's marketplace is awash with Bluetooth-enabled devices, everything from meat thermometers to baby monitors to home security systems.

More importantly, there is a growing number of Bluetooth devices that can benefit professional drivers. Here are a few:

Bluetooth Enabled RoadKing CB Radio



No self-respecting trucker, at least in days gone by, would hit the road without a decent citizens band radio in their truck. That changed as smartphones became more sophisticated and accessible to truckers. But, RoadKing flipped the script on trucker communications earlier this year with the ground-breaking creation of a **Bluetooth-enabled CB**. This new CB has everything a traditional one would have but with one important addition: hands free use. This is the first device to provide a seamless transition between the CB radio, smartphone, and Bluetooth headset with one touch. Pushing the multi-function button on the Bluetooth headset allows the user to switch between a conversation on the CB radio to an incoming call and talk hands-free. This makes for an effortless transition between a CB conversation and an incoming call.

It is ready to go right out of the box, according to RoadKing. It includes a RoadKing 940 noise-canceling Bluetooth headset, which is already paired to the radio, and a dynamic 4-pin handheld CB microphone, as well as an optional push-to-talk button. This industry-first CB radio system also features a seven-color display, NOAA weather alerts, PA function, and talkback.

The new RoadKing voice-activated hands-free CB radio system is available at travel centers and truck stops throughout the US and Canada.

BlueParrott Bluetooth Headsets



Pro drivers do not have to settle for being stuck with few choices when it comes to having a good, hands-free headset. BlueParrott alone offers five to choose from:

- M300-XT
- B550-XT
- B450-XT
- B350-XT
- B250-XTS

All feature superior noise-cancellation and high-quality microphones so you can hear your caller and they can hear you. All are lightweight and can be worn for an entire day of driving. And, all have extended battery life and talk time. The **B550-XT** is BlueParrott's most-advanced wireless headset. It features VoiceControl Pro, which allows you to control the headset using only your voice. Just start by saying "Hello, BlueParrott" and tell it what you wish it to do. That makes it truly hands-free and ideal for the safety-conscious pro driver.

BlueParrott headsets are available at travel centers, truck stops, big box stores and online. Prices vary.

MobileSpec Bluetooth-Enabled Headsets

Like BlueParrott, MobileSpec (part of the Roadpro Family of Brands) has several wireless headsets from which to choose. And, like those from BlueParrott, all are designed for professional truckers.



MobileSpec mono Bluetooth in-ear headset: With Bluetooth v4.1 technology, this headset features an adjustable ear-loop for a secure fit. It easily pairs to other compatible devices, and has answer/end calls, call waiting and redial functions. It's easy to mute, volume, play and pause music functions. It also includes a charging cable and extra ear tips, and camera ready function for better photos without using a timer.



MobileSpec neckband headphones: This lightweight wireless neckband provides premium sound and comfort. It features an inline mic, six-hour battery life, and pairs with any other Bluetooth-enabled device.



MobileSpec active Bluetooth earbuds: These Bluetooth wireless earbuds, have an inline mic and deliver five hours of battery life. With over-the-ear clips, they are ideal for when you are walking or working out.



MobileSpec also offers a **wireless receiving adapter** that enables Bluetooth wireless communication between non-Bluetooth units and is compatible with devices using a 3.5mm adapter. It has a plug and play easy set-up and the one-touch control pairs with your devices in seconds. It includes a rechargeable battery and charging cable.

All MobileSpec products are available at truck stops and travel centers.

Logitech's K389 Bluetooth Keyboard



Unless you are a totally teched-up road warrior you may be doing a lot of two-thumb/finger typing on your smartphone's smallish keyboard. You don't really need to as there are plenty of good Bluetooth-enabled keyboards available for not much cash. The cream of the crop for wireless keyboards is **Logitech's K380**. It has many of the features more expensive keyboards have, but at a comfortable price. One of the nicest features about the K380 is that it has the ability to connect to three different devices. This means you can type a text on your smartphone and with the press of a button return to the documents you were working on in your tablet. It operates off two AAA batteries, which need replacing after about two years of use.

Available online for \$29.99.

QALO Personalized Bluetooth TraQ Neon Mountain Silicone Dog ID Tag



If your dog or cat travels with you while you're over-the-road then this is a "must have" accessory for them. It clips on their collar and uses an app to track them if they stray from you or your truck. The company explains, "If you're within 200 feet of each other, you can detect him directly. Outside of 200 feet and the app will utilize a network of other users and devices to aid in your search." You can also personalize the tag so if your lost pet is found, folks will know who they belong to and how to get in touch with you."

Available online from Chewy for \$49.99.

Put On Your Glasses and Listen to Your Music



Bose now offers folks the opportunity to have the high-level sound they are used to getting from the audio mega-maker in a somewhat unusual device: a pair of stylish sunglasses. **Bose Frames Alto** features speakers in the earpieces, but not in the wearer's ears. You can connect to your smartphone with Bluetooth and touch just one button to turn on your glasses, answer calls, play and pause music, and access a voice assistant like Siri or Google Assistant. Bose Frames Rondo offers the same features but in a slightly rounder frame style.

They're available online for \$199.

As an alternative you can try **JLab JBuds Frames** wireless audio for your glasses. The speakers clip to the frames of your existing glasses. Controls allow you to play or pause music, answer calls and change volume. Fully charged, you can listen for up to eight hours.

Available online for \$49.99.

SleepPhones



Finally, there's a wireless headset you can wear when it's time to crawl in the sleeper berth for the night. **SleepPhones** wireless sleep headphones are traditional headphones the company said are made "bed-friendly and cord-free." This means you can comfortably listen to the audio from a movie you're streaming, enjoy your favorite podcast or audiobook or listen to the music of your choice. With a full charge of about 12 hours, SleepPhones will see you through the night even if you can't fall asleep. They have a range of 15 to 30 feet and reload in about two hours with an included micro-USB cable. SleepPhones come with two headbands. One fleece one is ideal for when you crawl into bed, while the lightweight "breeze" headband is good if you wear them for exercising or during warmer weather.

SleepPhones are available online for \$99.95.

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Our smallest and lightest Bluetooth® headset with 80% noise
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Pro Driver Tip

Top Items to Always Have on Your Truck



Lamar Buckwalter



Lamar has been in trucking for over 19 years and is the owner of Buckwalter Trucking LLC, a family run business based in Leola, PA. Currently he owns two trucks, with one being a custom Kenworth T660 which is often seen at many truck shows. He also sponsors the Jason Johnson Racing, World of Outlaws Sprint Car. In addition to JJR he also sponsors, Chad Trout, who is another prominent driver on the local Sprint Car circuit. Lamar operates in all 48 states and hauls fresh or frozen foods. During his free time from the road and when he's not at the dirt tracks he is also the Vice President on his son's midget football team board of directors. He also enjoys spending time with his family and Beagle pup, Trixie as well as listening to his daughter play violin.

SCIPPIO TACTICAL

Let's Get Tactical

Available at a truck stop or travel center near you is an all-new line of products from Scipio Tactical®. Providing affordable performance gear for the everyday grind, including tactical flashlights with rechargeable batteries, backpacks built to last, knives designed for every duty, gloves tested for rugged conditions, a selection of soft-sided pistol carrying cases, and a hard-sided option that offers a combination lock and thick foam interior.



Scipio's Tactical flashlights have COB LED bulbs and come with various features that include a high/low strobe and zoomable beam. The biggest and brightest at 4,000 Lumens has a window breaker tip for emergencies, rubber grip, and twist focus. There is also a 1000 Lumen headlamp for those times when you need to be hands-free and a smaller 180 Lumen flashlight with a pocket clip to always have on hand.



Backpacks are always a must for any driver, and Scipio has one to fit your every need. Various sizes and options include adjustable shoulder straps, multiple zippered compartments, exterior cord pockets, and the larger Elite pack has an outer mesh hydration compartment. There are two laptop backpacks that both have a protective pocket. Made of 100% polyester for easy cleaning, these durable backpacks are offered in various colors, including camo.



Scipio Tactical folding pocket knives have blades ranging from 3.3" to 3.5" and have a solid stainless steel construction with an aluminum handle. The Carabiner folding knife has a Phillips screwdriver, slot screwdriver, bottle opener, and twist closure carabiner.



If you carry a firearm, you will also find a selection of pistol cases that include two soft-sided options with zipper closure and convenient carry handles to a hard-sided storage case with a thick foam interior and a combination lock.

Scipio Tactical products are made for how you live on the road. ■





COOKING

with **RoadPro**



ROADPRO® OMELET

MADE FOR THE ROADPRO® FRYING PAN

INGREDIENTS

- 2 eggs
- 1 tbsp milk
- Salt
- Pepper
- Add-ons (optional): cheese, diced ham, peppers

DIRECTIONS

1. In mixing bowl, add eggs, milk, salt and pepper
2. Whisk to combine
3. Heat the [RoadPro Frying Pan](#)
4. Add ½ tsp oil (swirl to cover pan)
5. Pour in egg mixture
6. Use spatula to cook egg, without flipping
7. Add your ingredients to one half of the omelet: cheddar cheese, ham, peppers, etc.
8. Cover with lid and cook until cheese is melted
9. Once cooked, remove lid. Fold the omelet in half and press down
10. Serve and enjoy!



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Redesigned with improved hardware and Rand Navigation, this 2nd generation 7-inch, all-in-one truck GPS, tablet, dash cam, and satellite radio is faster, sleeker, and more powerful.



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