

INTERNATIONAL HOME & HOUSEWARES SHOW — 2007

Who, what, wares at the fair

By Karen Klages | Tribune staff reporter

A collapsible vacuum cleaner. Portable microwave (for when you simply must take your oven with you). And bundt pan in the shape of the Star of David.

It's housewares' version of a three-ring circus — the International Home & Housewares Show, the annual trade show that opens today at McCormick Place and is this industry's most significant stage for trotting out new products and seeing what will fly.

We offer this quick preview of interesting new wares. Over the next three days, staffers from Home&Garden will comb the show looking for the best new products in three categories — storage/organization, tableware and cleaning. Those stories will be published in the coming weeks.

True Brit

Sure to be one of the best collaborations at this year's show: Sir

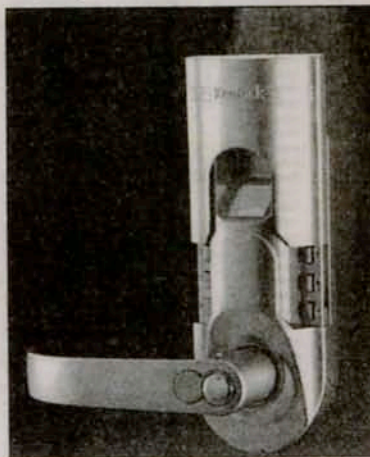
Terence Conran (designer/restaurateur/bon vivant) and Royal Doulton

(fine china/crystal company), both of England. Conran is shaking up RD's reputation for country roses and fancy-cut crystal stemware with a handsome line of modern table goods (ceramic ware, glassware, wooden accessories). Our favorite piece: this ceramic pie dish, with a minimalist blackbird (steam vent) taking center stage. Available this summer. Cost: \$30 for a small pie dish, \$35 for medium, \$40 for the large size, www.royal-doulton.com. 800-682-4462.



Magic fingers

Stuck outside and can't find your house key? Habitually? There's a solution for people like you — a door lock that opens by scanning your fingerprint and matching it to those previously entered in its memory. It's one of the latest high-tech wonders from iTouchless, whose repertoire includes a touchless trashcan and touchless faucet adaptor. All sorts of smart technology (and sensors) are involved. The Bio-Matic Fingerprint Recognition Door Lock comes in two styles and also works by passcode and backup key. Cost: \$250 to \$270. Available now through www.itouchless.com, 800-660-7978.



Fire eating spray

We love this idea: a fire extinguisher that's not intimidating to use. The First Alert Tundra Fire Extinguishing Spray comes in a simple aerosol can and works on common household fires including grease, paper, fabric, wood and electrical fires. It's designed for a one-time use. And in case you're wondering, the propellant stays inside the can; it won't agitate the fire. Cost: \$15 to \$20 for a 14 fluid-ounce can. Available now at some mass-merchant stores. Or call 800-323-9005 for stores.



IN THE WEB EDITION

Some introductions at the housewares show leave you scratching your head about what their function is. Take a look at a few of these finds at chicagotribune.com/housewares and vote on what you think each is meant to do.

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