September 6, 2009

SAWY



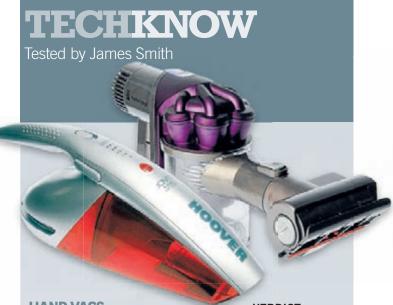
STYLING **HAYLEY BELL** PICTURES MIKE BAKER

> butterflies from The Works. Hot pink African headdress from Bisque Interiors. Simply Nude III artwork from Original Custom Art Work. Safari chair and hot pink plain velvet Kitty Blake cushion, \$99, from Bisque Interiors. Shadow puppet decals (from top) duck, giraffe and dog, \$55 each, from Lola and Bailey. Carmen Paint supplied by Porters Paints.



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HAND VACS DYSON DC 31 Cost \$349

There's a scene in daft World War II spoof Top Secret! in which Val Kilmer's character gives his manager a "tool" to help rekindle romance with his wife. I wonder if James Dyson has seen the film as his latest hand vac - the uberpowerful DC 31 — bears a remarkable similarity, adjustable nozzles and all. What's more, the look of glee on the manager's face when he opens the box is mirrored by mine — surely vacuum cleaners aren't supposed to look this insanely cool. It's insanely mighty too. Dyson claims it contains the world's fastest motor (yes, faster than a jet engine) and, watching it devour muck like a half-starved whale in a cloud of plankton while in "Boost" mode, who am I to argue?

HOOVER JOVIS WET AND DRY Cost \$129

Back on more familiar territory is the Jovis, Hoover's most powerful hand vac. Unlikely to turn heads like the Dyson, it instead concentrates on functionality. Like Matthew Hayden, it's something of a flat track bully - great on flat surfaces, less so when things get a little tricky. But its 18 minutes of battery life mean it lasts two to three times longer than the Dyson per charge and it earns the "Wet and Dry" sobriquet through an ability to mop up spills once a rubber nozzle is attached, suggesting it could give that whale a run for the money when it comes to plankton.

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VERDICT

And the winner is: If pragmatism and prudence are your priority, the Jovis will do just fine. For those with bulging wallets and a belief that your choice of vacuum can make you look cool, the Dyson is the Usain Bolt of its class

CHECK THIS OUT

Nothing ruins a perfect coffee like letting it run cold. Thanks to two German scientists who felt the same about mulled wine, it need never happen again. The Fraunhofer Institute hopes to release, later this year, mugs capable of maintaining temperatures for 30 minutes.



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