

May 9, 2016

## What's New? By George Harding

### Triby...

This is an interesting product that you use in your kitchen. You can leave messages for others, call to or from other family members, and listen to radio

The device is about 6 inches square. The top part of the square is a handle for the device. There is a small screen on the front surface on which transmitted messages are displayed. There are several buttons, two phone buttons on the left, two radio buttons on the right. The rest of the front is devoted to speakers.

The back of the device has two magnetized strips used to attach the device to your refrigerator or other metallic fixture. The left side has a sliding panel that slips out when there is a message received. The right



side has a charging port.

The product comes with the device and a charging cable. A downloadable app is available from the Apple store. An Android app is under development.

With the app, you can set up connections to everyone on the family. You can call any of them through Tribby, or any one can call Tribby. You can add as many family members as you need or want. You can add non-family members, as well, if you wish.

If you like to listen to the radio while you work in the kitchen, you have available through the app a selection of many stations, from talk radio to classical music to sports. You can pretune two of these to the two radio buttons on the face of the device, for easy tuning.

If you are a Spotify subscriber, you can play songs from that source.

Triby is connected to the Internet through your home network. It is also connected with Bluetooth for local communication.

One of the interesting features is the ability to send messages to Triby from your phone. They appear on the display screen on the front of Triby. AT the time of receipt, the yellow slider on the left side of Triby slides out to notify you of a message. The message is limited by the size of the display screen, so it must be fairly brief.

What you send need not be a message, but rather can be a drawing or an emoticon. Or a scribble. Or anything else you want.

This is an interesting, innovative product that is useful in your kitchen or other home locations.

Triby by Invoxia

[www.invoxia.com/triby](http://www.invoxia.com/triby)

Price \$199

Charging Hub 400 ...

One of the problems today is the many devices we have that need charging. While it would be nice to spread them out, sometimes two or more need charging at the same time.

Ventev's charging hub to the rescue!

This hub has four USB ports, which can all be used at the same time, if necessary.

Three of the ports share a 3 amp supply, one is 2.4 amp. You can use any of the ports to charge any device, but the 2.4 amp port will provide the fastest charge.



The hub has a connecting cord for plugging into a wall socket. The manual suggests that the cord be removed from the socket when the hub is not in use..

The accompanying User Manual is thorough and complete. It is a strip 8 ½ inches by 3 ½ inches folded into five panels. Although not much instruction is required, it is fully laid out in this manual.

In my use, rather than attaching the charging cords to the hub when a device needed charging, I wound up simply leaving the charging cables for my various devices attached to the hub. That eliminated the search that sometimes occurred when I needed a cable and couldn't find it.

Charging Hub 400 by Ventev    [www.mobileaccessories.ventev.com](http://www.mobileaccessories.ventev.com)    Price \$40

### **Canary ...**

Canary is a home security device that is easy to set up and works very well.

It provides you with a view of your home area from wherever you are away from home. You only need your smartphone and WiFi.

Starting out, you put the Canary in a central spot that has a good view of your area.

Next, plug the Canary into a wall socket and connect to your WiFi.

Now you have an inside view of the area you chose to see. You can access it anytime you have WiFi coverage.



You will get alerts whenever Canary sees movement when you are not at home. How does it know you aren't there? I don't know, but it does! Canary is automatically armed when you leave the house and disarmed when you are home.

The alerts show up on your smartphone and are recorded for you to view if needed.

The smartphone screen also has an alarm button and a police call button.

Canary also has a few features that will be of interest to you. One is a temperature monitor which tells you the temperature in Canary's locale. The second is a Humidity monitor, which may be of interest. And third is an air quality monitor. Each of these can be displayed as a graph to see variations over time.

The air quality monitor is pretty interesting. It monitors for isobutene, hydrogen (don't know when that might be present), methane, ethanol, carbon monoxide, cigarette smoke and cooking odors. The Guide points out that Canary should not be used as a replacement for a dedicated monoxide or smoke detector.

One extra advantage is that having Canary monitoring your environment may get you a discount on your Home Owner's insurance with State Farm.

Canary is easy to use and set up. I have had only one problem, controlling the mobile alerts. I have been getting them even when at home. That produces many alerts.

Canary Home Security

[meetcanary.com](http://meetcanary.com)

Price \$199