

In the Kitchen or On the Go

For those who love to travel or cook, we've uncovered some items that will help—whether you are bound for a far-off land or just looking for an afternoon's fun in the kitchen. —by Julie Clay

Organization & Innovation >

The frustrating days of misplacing the takeout menu from your favorite pizza place are long gone with the menu organizer found at **Amy's Something Special**. This loose-leaf book is slightly smaller than standard 8 1/2" x 11"—convenient for storing on a shelf—and features sturdy cardboard menu holders and plastic pouches for coupons. A variety of “cuisine” stickers can be used to label pages by category. When it comes to coffee, an insulated tableside coffeepot from German company Leifheit carries a three-year workmanship guarantee and is available in bright red or yellow. Store owner Amy Horton attests to its ability to keep coffee hot for up to twenty hours. Vegetable peelers by New York and Paris-based Sarut are disguised as 8" high, brightly painted wooden figurines that open to reveal the peeler. The top of the figurine serves as the handle while the bottom can be used for storage. The peelers come in eight different designs featuring women of varying ethnicities, including Chinese, Japanese, and Indian. Adorable salt and pepper shakers by Blue Sky of California, also serve as lovely decorations. Available in blue or green, each features a large flower on either side. There is also a turtle set with matching soap holder in the same design. *Amy's Something Special, 630 Tarpon Bay Road, Unit 4, Sanibel, 239-472-4421*



< Travel & Taste

When you are out exploring and taking in new surroundings and experiences, life is good, wouldn't you say? That's the philosophy behind the brand of travel accessories we discovered at **Synergy**, aptly named Life Is Good. An individual-sized cooler is made of durable cloth and thick insulation, with a strong shoulder strap and outside zippered compartment. A Laken water bottle holds both hot and cold beverages in a hard-shell container available in several colors including pastel blue, orange, and green. A simple, screw-on cap also features a hook for attaching to a bag or belt. Life Is Good also makes a great bright-pink carry-on bag with double clips that close solidly. It has lots of roomy compartments, plus padded shoulder strap and handle. If parting with your pooch is too much, taking him along is much more convenient with a collapsible dog bowl. Blue with a green stripe, it features a picture of a dog catching a Frisbee. Sorry, no food included. *Synergy, 2075 Periwinkle Way, Unit 18, Sanibel, 239-395-5353, fax 239-395-3307, synergy202@earthlink.net*

PHOTOS BY JULIE CLAY

Storage & Style ▶

It is sometimes hard to decide which jewelry to take along on a trip, as you weigh options based on outfits, value, and possibility of loss or damage. **Suncatchers' Dream** has a solution to this dilemma with travel-sized jewelry boxes from the Milano series. Although only two inches high, five inches wide, and two inches deep, they are similar to their larger counterparts in that they are divided into several compartments and have a separate drawer, an attached mirror inside the top cover, and a carrying handle on top. Available in a choice of colors including red, purple, or light blue, they fit comfortably inside any suitcase. We also found a great way to store cosmetics while traveling, in the form of a set of three round plastic containers with see-through lids and zippered openings. The containers link together or can be used separately, and a hanging loop on an end case allows for convenient storage on any hook or doorknob. The set features one green container, one pink, and one orange, all roughly six inches in diameter. For showing off the grandkids, compact photo albums with a window on the front can hold up to thirty-six photos and still fit comfortably inside a purse. These albums are available in orange, green, and pink. *Suncatchers' Dream, 630 Tarpon Bay Road, Sanibel, 239-472-7860; suncatchers@earthlink.net*



◀ High-Tech & Entertaining

Salt and pepper shakers get downright high-tech at **Brookstone**. The brushed steel cylinders, a little over one inch tall, will wobble but never fall over thanks to their weighted-bottom design, while a plastic lining keeps spices away from steel. The Celebration Cake Server enhances any occasion by playing a song while you dish out the goodies. Choose from such tunes as *Happy Birthday, Pomp and Circumstance, For He's a Jolly Good Fellow, and The Wedding March*. The server features a stainless steel blade, ergonomic rubber grip handle, and removable battery compartment for easy cleanup. As this was Brookstone, we also had no problem finding futuristic travel necessities as well. The Cool It personal fan stands about four inches tall, with a grippable rubber handle/base and removable lanyard for portability. It also provides an adjustable level breeze with finger-safe blades, in your choice of white, blue, and bright green colors. While you're cooling off, relax with the Softsounds Speaker Pillow, featuring a built-in speaker that connects to any portable audio player. Close your eyes and sink your head into this circular, velvety soft pillow, available in a variety of colors including blue, black, silver, and pink. Along the same lines, there is also the Softsounds Speaker Neckrest, a pillow that plays MP3s and features furry fabric on one side and lycra on the other. Soft speaker areas are built into either end of this roughly foot-long pillow. *Nighty-night. Brookstone, Bell Tower Shops, 13499 S. Cleveland Ave., Fort Myers, 239-481-7711*

