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Lose Weight Now

Section: What's New

THREE OF A KIND

THREE SUPER MODELS THAT INSPIRE PRECISELY FOR WHAT THEY LACK.

For engineers, trimming away ounces and pounds isn't an impressive end in itself. Light weight, in order to carry heavy significance, must inform some aspect of a product's utility. But finding the line between functionally gossamer and just plain flimsy can be confounding. These featherweights strike a perfect balance.



SUPERLIGHT CHAIR 6.5 lbs.

It's easy to make a 6.5-pound aluminum chair; it's less easy when Mr. Frank Gehry himself wants it to flex a bit. The challenge with the Superlight, designed by the famous architect and manufactured by Emeco, was to manipulate what is not typically a flexible material. The frame consists of aluminum tubes that are cold-formed to save the weight of welding and then heat-treated for strength. They bend under load because of a proprietary alloy, the thinness of their walls (1.6mm) and the way they bow away from the chair back. The slinglike seat is a sheet of 1.6mm-thick brushed aluminum, hemmed at the edges to give it structural integrity. \$350; designwithinreach.com



LOTUS ELISE 1,975 lbs.

The skinny here is that the car's chassis, made of bonded, extruded aluminum, weighs just 150 pounds. And the molded composite body is significantly lighter than standard fiberglass. Introduced in the U.S. in June as a 2005 model, this mid-engine roadster has a 1.8-liter, four-cylinder Toyota Celica engine that produces 190 horsepower. That may sound anemic, but the engine needs to push only 1,975 pounds. The result? Zero-to-60 in 4.8 seconds, and it moves like a cheetah. Even the pedals are extruded aluminum. Says Steve Swift, the company's **engineering** chief: "It's the most Lotus Lotus we've ever made." \$40,000; lotuscars.com

The new X505 is the lightest laptop in the country, thanks to a carbon-nickel casing that's both lighter and stronger than carbon fiber. The absence of a fan also pares weight: The Intel Pentium M processor is a low-power-consumption chip to start with, and the conductive nature of the carbon nickel combined with two exhaust ports easily dissipates the little heat it produces. Yet it has a grown-up 10.4-inch screen and a 20GB hard drive. It's a notebook smaller than an actual notebook. \$3,000; sony.com



SONY VAIO X505 1.75 lbs.

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