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Personal Tech

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A smart messenger bag for the digerati

G-Tech, which makes a smart fabric keyboard for hand-held PCs and backpacks with music control panels made of woven electronics, is about to release an iPod-enabled bike messenger bag.

Like its backpacks, G-Tech's Messenger Bag has an ElekTex fabric control panel you can use to control the volume on your iPod and select, play, pause, and stop individual tracks in your library. The controls are conveniently located on the bag's strap.

The Messenger Bag has compartments for your music player and cellphone. It also has an integrated external stereo speaker and a built-in, universal 3.5-millimeter extension jack. That way, you can play your music, boom-box style, from your laptop or any other device that has that standard jack.

The G-Tech Messenger Bag ain't no Timbuk2: I don't expect many bike messengers will give up their original canvas bags — seasoned with all of that street grime and grit — for something that is half bag, half gadget, and all nerd. But the Messenger Bag, with its padded shoulder strap and neat iPod pocket on the outside of the flap, is functional enough. The bag should reach major retail outlets by mid-November, where it is expected to sell for about \$130.