



**Groupon.** Sign up to receive daily local deals on museum admissions, show tickets, food, clothing, even facials. But it takes a village—or enough buyers—for a deal to take effect. If you're interested, click on the Buy button. Once the required number of buyers is reached, your credit card is charged.

**FourSquare.** A mix of geo-location technology and social networking. Check in with a smart phone when you visit a favorite restaurant, for example, and tell those connected to you (via Twitter, Facebook, or otherwise) how your meal was. Check in often enough from the same establishment and you'll become "mayor," which may earn you rewards from the vendor. But: You're letting people know you're not home.

**Blog.** The word is short for Web log, a diary you share online. Some blogs are for businesses (like the Consumer Reports blog), others are personal. One of the most famous: the Julie/Julia Project, on which the movie "Julie & Julia" was based. You may need software such as WordPress or Blogger to publish.

**Wiki.** It's a changing database that can be edited by participants. Wikis can be specialized—companies create them to store corporate knowledge—or wide-ranging. Wikipedia, for example, is an online

encyclopedia. But: There's no fact-checking on some wikis.

**Scribd.** Lets you upload documents you think are worth reading, from amicus briefs in court cases to magazine articles and excerpts from novels. Rate what you've read or let friends know what you've been reading.

**Flickr.** A place to store and share photos, with apps such as Streetside Photos, which mixes Bing Maps (Microsoft's answer to MapQuest) with photos posted by Flickr users.

**Ping.** Reach it through iTunes. Find out what music friends are buying, find music reviews by people with tastes similar to yours, and follow favorite artists.

**Digg.** You'll see Digg buttons on news sites. Join this free service and Digg a story by clicking on the button. The more Diggs, the higher a story rises in the news hierarchy on Digg.com. It's a way to get recognition for stories you think are important and to see what others are reading.

GETTY IMAGES (TOP; BOTTOM, LEFT)

## Nine-year-old Prius retains its youth

**To see whether** an aging Toyota Prius has lost a step, we borrowed a 2002 model with 206,000 miles on the odometer. Then we put it through some of the same tests we ran almost exactly 10 years earlier on a nearly identical 2001 tested car with 2,000 miles. We checked whether the battery had worn down, which would be expensive to fix because a new one costs \$2,300 to \$2,600 from a dealer (more like \$500 from a salvage yard). We timed acceleration. And we determined whether the mpg was as high in the aged car as it had been in the new one.

**Results.** Gas mileage in the old Prius was virtually the same as it had been in the new. Acceleration was just slightly slower, which could have been due to weather or to the fact that the old car wasn't tuned up. Specifics are in the table at right. Testers who drove the older car said it drove essentially

### How it held up

PRIOUS at...	2,000 miles	206,000 miles
<b>FUEL ECONOMY (mpg)</b>		
Overall	40.6	40.4
Highway	48.6	46.3
City	30.5	32.1
<b>ACCELERATION (seconds)</b>		
0-60 mph	12.7	13.1
¼ mile	19.3	19.4

identically to the one tested 10 years ago, and it had no squeaks or rattles.

**Bottom line.** The Prius that traveled 206,000 miles still acts like a youngster: Its expensive battery has not worn out, and its performance was similar to that of a new Prius tested 10 years ago.

worked on identical rings and diver s watches soiled with synthetic sebum, hand lotion, and hair spray.

All products performed about the same: For hard-to-remove grunge, we needed to use a brush. In fact, we cleaned off all the soils just as effectively with nothing but warm water and a soft toothbrush, and dried the jewelry with a facial tissue.

**Bottom line.** You don't need those products, so save the cost of a pair of earrings and follow these pearls of wisdom:

• Buff pearls, opals, or turquoise with a soft, dry chamois. Never use water, which can damage them. Clean settings around opals or turquoise with a soft, dry toothbrush. Apply any hair spray, makeup, or perfume before putting on pearls, whose color can be changed by those products.

• Clean silver with silver polish or a little non-gel toothpaste. Apply it gently with a damp sponge, rinse, then buff with a soft cloth.

## What we tested

### 8-OUNCE LIQUIDS



- Connoisseurs Revitalizing 1045 (and brush) **\$6**
- Blitz 651 (and brush) **\$8**
- Caribbean Gem with Banana & Coconut Oil **\$16**
- Haier HU780BW **\$35**

### ULTRASONIC DEVICES



- Haier HU780BW **\$35**
- Brookstone 606376P **\$50**



2002 Prius with 206,000 miles