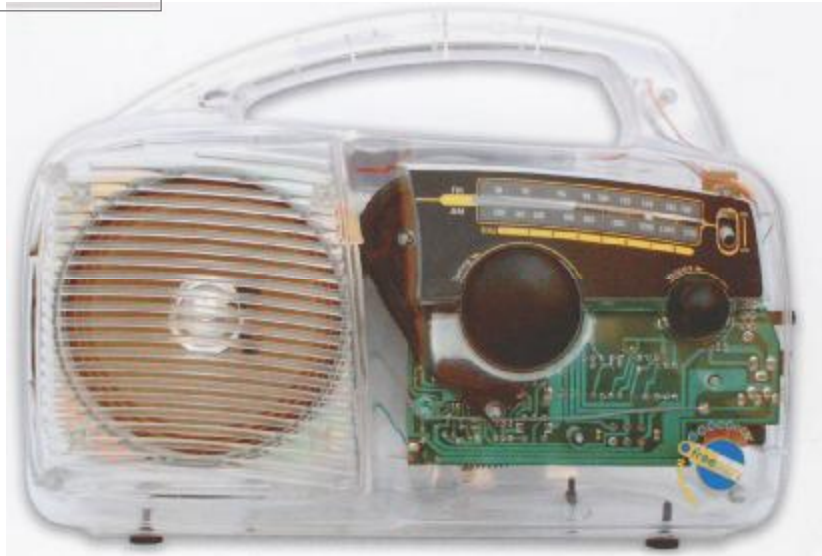


FPR2 Human Powered Radio 1998

Roelf Mulder (South African, born 1959), Byron Qually (South African, born 1973), and Etienne Rijkheer (South African, born 1949) of ...XYZ Dot Dot Dot Ex Why Zed Design, Ltd. (South Africa, est. 2000)

Polycarbonate, ABS plastic, nylon, and brass, 7 7/8 x 11 x 7 1/4" (20 x 28 x 18.5 cm)

Manufacturer Freeplay Energy Plc., South Africa (1998)



173

Freeplay focuses on the development of a self-sufficient energy system based on the storage of human mechanical effort to be delivered as electricity when needed. A carbon steel spring stores the energy generated by winding a handle. The energy is converted into electricity, charging the battery that powers the device. This renewable and ecological energy can either be applied to specific products, such as radios and flashlights, or be a stand-alone unit able to power several devices, including computers and medical equipment. Together with the designers of ...XYZ, Freeplay has developed a human-powered radio that does not require batteries (above). In a large-scale emergency, when communications and infrastructures are down, this radio can provide an efficient way of reaching a large number of people and keeping them aware of the situation.

A more robust and colorful version, the Lifeline radio (see page 11), has been conceived to operate

in the harshest conditions and climates. The Freeplay Foundation, a humanitarian organization that works mostly in Africa, distributes the self-powered Lifeline radio to distant communities that have no access to electricity or batteries. The greatest obstacle to the alleviation of poverty is isolation. Radio can play a vital and even life-saving role in its capacity to reach anyone isolated by geography, conflict, or illiteracy, giving them access to information and education.

Freeplay has also designed an emergency lantern and a mobile phone charger (see opposite). The FreeCharge energy pack for a cell phone offers two power sources: an internal rechargeable battery and a wind-up option for power supply at any time. The human-powered capability of these solutions makes them particularly suitable for disaster relief. This closeness to the basics that developing countries still preserve can become very helpful in unexpected emergency situations. —P. J.



Condom Applicator 2004

Roelf Mulder (South African, born 1959) Byron Qually (South African, born 1973), and Richard Perez (South African, born 1970) of ...XYZ Dot Dot Dot Ex Why Zed Design, Ltd. (South Africa, est. 2000)
 Polyethylene and aluminum, 1/4 x 2 1/8" (0.75 x 5.5 x 5.5 cm)
 Manufacturer: ... XYZ Dot Dot Dot Ex Why Zed Design, Ltd., South Africa (2005)

Despite widespread campaigns to inform the general public about the importance of condoms, their use in South Africa is still alarmingly low. The most often-quoted reasons for not using them are: their application interferes with the sexual act and they are not easy to remove from the package in the dark. Moreover, applying the condom by hand is unhygienic and unsafe, and there is always the risk

contaminating it if it is unrolled from the wrong side.

...XYZ industrial design firm, based in Cape Town, South Africa, took up the challenge of creating an applicator that was cheap, fast, user-friendly, and no bigger than the usual packaging. The aim was to improve on an existing product, not to introduce a new system into an already controversial environment.

The innovative packaging allows the condom to be unwrapped and fitted in three seconds. The applicator is sealed into a foil pouch with the condom. When bent, the foil splits open on the correct side, and the applicator pops off and slides out the condom. This product could promote the use of condoms and help reduce sexually transmitted diseases, hopefully alleviating the HIV/AIDS pandemic in sub-Saharan Africa. —P. J.

~f