

Roll With It!

OneWheel

Top Speed: 15 mph

Range: 7 miles

Charging Time: 20 minutes



This 30-inch-long board with a huge wheel suspended in the middle might seem like an accident waiting to happen. But cruising on the OneWheel is not as daunting as it might look, thanks to a gyroscope and accelerometer embedded in the platform.

That said, the OneWheel is challenging to get the hang of. It took me about two very fraught minutes to get comfortable enough to inch forward on my own. Ten minutes later I was able to make tentative wide turns. Before long, though, I got it. The 11-inch air-filled tire, I discovered, flies over rough road and sand with barely a hiccup.

\$1,499, rideonwheel.com

IO Hawk

Top Speed: 6.2 mph

Range: 12 miles

Charging Time: 3 hours



The IO Hawk is like the Segway – just stand and lean – but you don't look as dorky on one. Unlike Segway, the IO Hawk has no dignity-abusing handle poking up.

Each wheel can be controlled separately (It's like having two gas pedals), so I had no trouble making tight turns. And since the wheels can spin forward and backward, twirling in place is very easy. A few seconds after hopping on, I was whizzing around with confidence as the electric motor whirred beneath me. This is what it would feel like to have wheels for feet.

Before long, I was hooked. I'd even look for excuses to roam the office with it. It's a great way to get to the water cooler and back.

\$1,800, iohawk.com

RocketSkates R10

Top Speed: 12 mph

Range: 10 miles

Charging Time: 2.5 hours



Yes, these self-propelled roller skates were inspired by Road Runner cartoons in which Wile E. Coyote supercharges his roller skates using dynamite. Thankfully, these use 55-watt motors.

After you step into the RocketSkates and buckle them over your shoes, you begin as you would with traditional skates: push off on your dominant foot. Once both skates are rolling, you can activate their motors by tilting your foot forward. To brake, lean back on your heels.

Sounds easy enough, but it took me about an hour to feel steady on my motorized feet. Two motors is a lot to keep track of – which I realized when my feet would pull in different directions if I went duck-toed. You don't need skating experience, but it is definitely helpful to have clocked time at the roller rink.

\$699, actonglobal.com

Wall Street Journal, 2015

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 - B IO Hawk
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Bronvermelding

Een opsomming van de in dit examen gebruikte bronnen, zoals teksten en afbeeldingen, is te vinden in het bij dit examen behorende correctievoorschrift, dat na afloop van het examen wordt gepubliceerd.