



**IN THE HAND:** The MD-2000 Microwave Leakage Detector, right, and the Nokia 7190 cellphone.

# Gadget detects leaky microwave

I'm always wary when I encounter an antique microwave that looks like it came from an Eastern bloc country. You know the ones. They're clunky and chunky and have big silver buttons on them.

And they make an unholy whirling sound.

Are they safe? Well, there's a gadget that will tell you. It's the MD-2000 Microwave Leakage Detector. It's a palm-sized device that can report whether or not the amount of radiation coming out of these dinosaurs is unhealthy.

Of course the device is also useful for testing newer microwaves that can also leak radiation when there are defects or problems with door seals.

To test a microwave, you turn it on and point the business end of the MD-2000 within a couple of inches of the oven, along the seam where the door meets the oven's chassis. The device sniffs the oven and gives you a reading from zero to 9.99 milliwatts/cm<sup>2</sup>.

If it senses levels over 5 mw/cm<sup>2</sup>, it flashes a light and emits a warning beep. This usually means there is a problem with the door seal.

It can be remedied by sending the microwave in for further inspection and repair. Or it can also be used as a reminder to not stand too close to the oven when it's operating.

The device is powered by a nine-volt battery and comes with a wall-mounting bracket and a rather sparse instruction manual.

Price: \$39.95. More info: [www.comforthouse.com/comfort/micleakdetwi.html](http://www.comforthouse.com/comfort/micleakdetwi.html).

■ **Nokia 7190 Cellular phone:** Nokia has produced some amazing cellular phones in the past, but they induce sticker shock. Not so with the Nokia

## The Gadget Guy

ANDY WALKER

7190. This phone takes many of the great design features from past products and rolls them into an affordable phone.

The 5 ounce device incorporates a slide-away panel that conceals its dial pad. It's a handy feature to prevent accidental calls when in a pocket or purse. The screen looks as if it has been bee-stung. It swells larger than the rest of the phone.

The larger screen makes navigating on the device's backlit menus much easier on the eyes. Older users will particularly like this feature along with the large display fonts.

Most useful for handheld computer users is an infrared port on the top end of the device that can be used to wirelessly share a dial-up Internet connection.

Newer Palm devices and older units installed with the Palm Mobile Internet Kit can take advantage of this great feature. Pocket PC devices also have the capability to use the IR port, however despite repeated attempts and configurations I couldn't get an HP Jornada to work with it.

The 7190 also has some very useful phone features. It includes voice dialing, Internet access on the handset and a series of updated video games onboard.

The 7190 has all the features that you'd want in a cellular phone. It's a winner.

Price: \$225. More info: [www.nokia.ca](http://www.nokia.ca).

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