

Re: It seems things are cheaper now but also cheaply made, am I paranoid?

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- *From:* "NN" <[davidlaska@xxxxxxx](mailto:davidlaska@xxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* 26 Aug 2006 16:24:55 -0700
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L. wrote:

"NN" <[davidlaska@xxxxxxx](mailto:davidlaska@xxxxxxx)> wrote in message  
[news:1156631263.872826.244960@xx](mailto:news:1156631263.872826.244960@xx)

Maxwell McHamster wrote:

NN wrote:

I always wondered why I run into people who have some machine or electronics that seem to last forever. What was worst that I never had a story like that nor could I find a particular brand to buy and have a story one day.

The old story – you get what you pay for, still holds up!

Examples:

For 15 years ago I bought A Philips "el-saver" light bulb, you know...those new "fluorescent" tungsten-lamp-replacement-bulbs that uses neon tubes rather than those tungsten lamps.

This one still works, and I've used it everywhere. Cost me a pretty penny back then. They used to cost about 30 dollars just for the "bulb" but for 15 years (and still going strong) this is a bargain.

People don't understand "quality" today – they only understand "price – what does it cost today?" nevermind if it works only

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a year...just so they get it "half-price!"

Same with video (although most use DVD-recorders today)  
I used to pay 1200-2000 dollars for a nice home S-VHS  
recorder  
(usually from some fancy brand like Panasonic) - worked  
for 10-12  
years easy..

Today? Purchased some crappy 200-300 dollar S-vhs  
recorder from JVC  
that looks like a re-born ghetto blaster (more ghetto than  
blaster)  
plastic-form-factor-all-in-one-idiot-design....last 1-2  
year and  
gets worn out.

Piece of JUNK!

Of course - there are exceptions -  
I bought a UNITED DVD player that can  
literally take ANY format and ANY region.  
Cost me 60 bucks or so...lasted over 4 years...and is  
still going strong, so there are no rules without  
exceptions.

But yeah - the old rule still goes...you really  
DO get what you pay for. Don't ever get fooled into  
believing anything else.

MaxWell McHamster - yours in technology as always.

Relying on name brands is no longer a good guide because as you said,  
they are cheap models also.

another example is these new lighters that have a blue flame (sorta  
like a little torch). I bought one many years ago and used it for a  
year, lost it and found it a year later in the dirt and used it another  
two years. Now they last a month at best. I looked for the  
difference and the good one was made in Japan while the junk was made  
in china. There was one major part that was different, while the  
Japanese one use all brass for the burner assembly with filters at two  
points, the chinese ones use a  
non metal flexible tube and a screen.

My parents bought a dryer back in the late 60s. It was "only" a 120 volt  
dryer but it does the job quite well. It has had to have 3 belts replaced  
since bought - one due to the lid bracket coming loose and cutting it. The

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pulley was also replaced as well as the pig tail (thanks to a bad outlet). A total of say \$40 in parts. They paid about \$100 for it then. It STILL works like new. Oh yeah, they didn't have much money – bought it on a "Scratch and Dent" sale..... They sure got their monies worth. You "might" think the electric bill is higher – but the total bill complete with the dryer used 2 days a week and TVs on all night – not to mention many other uses of electric – \$38 per month. The clothes get dried in "A" cycle with no problem.

Our Fire Station bought a \$5300 or so dollar Big Screen Tv. Within the first month, it had to be repaired. DO YOU GET WHAT YOU PAY FOR? NOT ALWAYS. Lets go another route..... Air Jordan Tennis Shoes. They go roughly \$70 a pair. I can buy 7 pairs of cheap shoes for that price, and get almost as much wear out of one pair as one pair of the Air Jordans. NAME is NOT always "Everything"... Sometimes – you are paying FOR the name – NOT the quality.

In my own opinion, MOST items today ARE JUNK – regardless of price OR name.

L.

Tennis shoes example is a really good one where you are paying for a name rather than the quality of the shoe. In fact last month on CNN another basketball star opened a tennis shoes brand. They are the same quality as some that go for \$200 this fall. He is selling them for 14.95 a pair .

US used to make quality products when they made them, I don,t know when price became the most important feature of a product.