

2026-2027 EDITION · PRICES CHECKED NOVEMBER 15

The No-BS Cigar *Gift Guide*

What to buy, what to skip, and how to make it personal.

40	$5.00	392	Nov 15
picks	to $2,700	comments read	prices checked

No affiliate links in this guide. Nobody paid for a spot.

SINCE LAST CHRISTMAS

What changed *this year*

Four things moved since last Christmas.

12.5%

Cigars cost more

Nicaragua

Dominican Republic

US tariff on cigars from Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic since July 24.

STG raised wholesale prices about 4% this summer.

Source

Gone

A favourite left

~~Xikar Turrim~~

↓

Xikar Allume 2 double jet lighter $69.99

We couldn't find the Xikar Turrim in Xikar's store this year.

New pick: the redesigned Allume 2, $69.99.

Source

Cigora

Cigar.com changed its name

~~Cigar.com~~

↓

Cigora

STG folded Cigar.com into Cigora at the end of September.

Old Cigar.com links now land there.

Source

Dec 17

Ship by

DECEMBER 2026

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

4 Hanukkah starts

17 USPS Ground Advantage

18 Priority Mail

25 Christmas

USPS dates for Christmas delivery in the lower 48.

Source



WHY I WROTE THIS

Most cigar gift guides *are useless*

- Most guides I read are too long. They read like ads for everything.
- I've smoked cigars for almost four years. I've wasted money on gear I didn't need.
- Say you texted me about a gift for your dad. This is what I'd send back.
- New this year: I asked the people who watch my videos what they actually use.

HOW TO USE IT

1. Start with "Know your smoker".
2. Jump to the accessory you care about.
3. Every price was checked on the seller's page on November 15.

BEFORE YOU BUY ANYTHING

Three rules *first*

THE GOLDEN RULE

Don't guess on cigars

Cigars are like wine. Buying blind is a coin flip.

THE CHEAT CODE

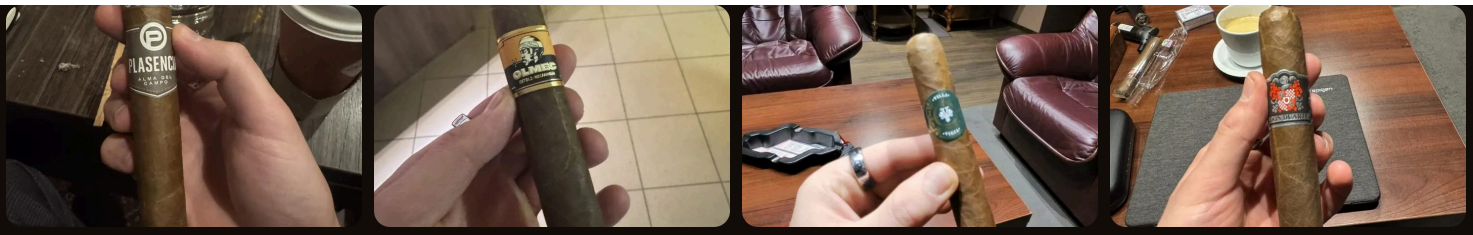
Buy the gear instead

A cigar gets smoked once. A good cutter or lighter lasts years.

IF YOU MUST BUY CIGARS

Ask one question

"What have you wanted to try but haven't yet?" Then buy exactly that. Or send him our free palate test.



From my own camera roll. I wouldn't guess your cigar either. Anatolie's own photos.

KNOW YOUR SMOKER

Who are you *buying for?*

A new smoker and a guy with 200 cigars need different things.

BRAND NEW

Still figuring it out

A decent cutter, a reliable torch, maybe a small case. Skip the humidor.

Palió Original double guillotine	Guillotine	$24.99
Vertigo by Lotus Cyclone triple torch	Triple torch	$14.99
Xikar Travel case, 5 cigars	Hard case	$35.99

GETTING SERIOUS

Has the basics

His cutter is dull. His lighter came from a gas station. Upgrade them.

Xikar Xi2 cutter	Guillotine	$49.99
Xikar Allume 2 double jet lighter	Double torch	$69.99
Stinky Cigar Tall ashtray	Outdoor	From $49.99
Humidor Supreme Alhambra 100 humidor	Wood	$208.99

HAS EVERYTHING

Owns a collection

Think engraved, limited, or something he'd never buy himself. Or take him to a lounge.

Les Fines Lames Le Petit cigar knife	Knife	From $162
S.T. Dupont Minijet torch lighter	Torch	$210
Daniel Marshall Ambiente 65 humidor	Furniture	$590.99

ASKED AND ANSWERED

What the community *actually uses*

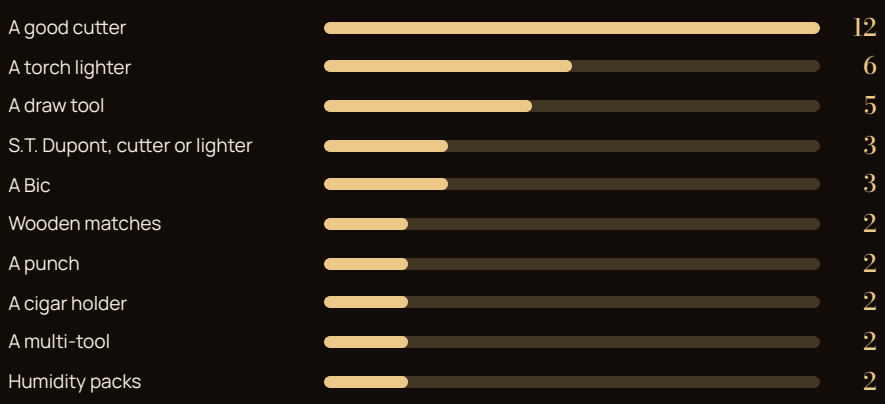
On November 10 I asked one question. What accessories have you actually found worth buying?

35 comments on that one video

392 comments read on nine gear videos

3 platforms: Instagram, Facebook, YouTube

WORTH BUYING, BY COUNT



People who named each item, out of 35 comments on my November 10 video. Some named more than one thing. I counted clear answers only.



They named it. Here it is.

Colibri V-Cut — 20 chose a V-cut. 9 chose straight. — $49	**PerfecDraw Draw tool** — 3 named it. At least 5 named a draw tool. — $35.99	**Boveda Size 60 packs, 65% or 69%, 4-pack** — At least 18 named Boveda. — $22.49
Govee Bluetooth hygrometer H5075 — 2 named Govee. 5 use a digital sensor. — $11.69	**BIC Maxi pocket lighters, 5-pack** — 3 named a Bic. One objected. — $5.79	**Vertigo by Lotus Cyclone triple torch** — One named a triple torch. — $14.99
S.T. Dupont Maxijet cigar cutter, chrome — 2 named a Dupont cutter. — $245	**Lotus Meteor cutter** — One named the Lotus Meteor. — $79.95	**Xikar MTX multi-tool scissors** — One named a multi-tool. — $59.99
Neptune Cigar Extra long cigar matches, 4 boxes — 2 named matches. — $5.00	**PerfecPunch Punch and stand** — 2 named a cigar holder. — $47.94	**Boveda Humidor bag** — 6 use a tupperdor or a jar. — From $7.99

Free tricks from the comments

A cocktail pick
One regular uses a long metal cocktail pick as a draw tool.

A golf tee
Another punches a cheap corona with a golf tee on the course.

A pipe for the nub
Five regulars finish the last of a cigar in a pipe.

A 72% pack and a bag
In a dry winter, one rests tonight's cigar with a 72% pack for a few hours.

The side of a Bic flame
Forgot the torch? One regular holds the Bic upright and lights with the side of the flame.

Also named, no card

- A pipe for the nub 5
- A hemostat or a clip 3
- Wooden matches 2
- A nub fork 2
- Humi-Care seasoning wipes 1
- A Xiaomi sensor 1
- A toothpick 1

SILENCE Nobody said an ashtray, a travel case or a wooden humidor was worth buying. I still rate all three, and I say why below.

THE ACCESSORIES, RANKED

1 The cutter. *Everyone needs one.*

Start here. The community put it first too.



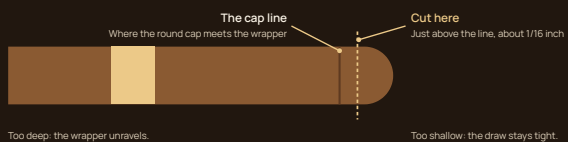
✓ LOOK FOR
- Sharp steel that closes fully.
- Enough ring gauge for the cigars he smokes.
- A warranty. Xikar's is a limited lifetime one.

× SKIP
- Single-blade guillotines. I find they crush instead of cut.
- Cutter-and-lighter combo kits.

ASK HIM
- "Punch, V or straight?" His answer picks the cutter.



Four ways to open a cigar. The cut changes the draw.



Where to cut. One firm, quick squeeze beats a slow one.



Shown to scale. Ring gauge is the diameter in 64ths of an inch.

Cutter limits in this guide: Xi2 and Palió 60 · Colibri Cut 62 · Lotus Meteor 64 · Le Petit 70

Ring gauges to scale. Match the cutter to the fattest cigar he smokes.

RULES OF THUMB FROM THE COMMENTS

- V on torpedoes and box-pressed cigars
- Punch on a loose or fat cigar
- Straight when the draw feels tight
- A golf tee on the course

THE COMMUNITY SAYS

12 of 35 said a good cutter. No other answer came close.

V-cut	20
Straight cut	9
Punch	9
No cutter at all	5

From my punch or straight cut video, October 29. 43 people picked a side. 2 more said a crown cut, and 10 said it depends on the cigar.

> *"Cheap cutters crush cigars and tear caps. My $70 V cutter has lasted years."*
>
> A regular on Facebook

WHERE THEY FIGHT ME

THEM The V-cut won. 20 chose it, against 9 for a straight cut and 9 for a punch.

ME I've always told people to buy a double guillotine. They outvoted me, so the V-cuts go first.

The Palió is the sharpest cutter I've used. It's not fancy, but it works better than cutters twice the price.

ANATOLIE



V-CUT

COLIBRI

V-Cut

Great on pointed cigars.

Deep wedge · Spring loaded

COMMUNITY 20 chose a V-cut. 9 chose straight.

$49 — At Colibri



V-CUT

XIKAR

VX2 V-cutter

A deep V-cut that locks shut in a pocket.

Deep V-cut · Locks shut

COMMUNITY 20 chose a V-cut. 9 chose straight.

$54.99 — At Xikar



GUILLOTINE

PALIÓ

Original double guillotine

The sharpest cutter I've used at this price.

Twin blades · Surgical steel · Up to 60 ring

$24.99 — At Xikar



GUILLOTINE

COLIBRI

Cut double guillotine

Cheap enough to keep one in every jacket.

Coated blades · Up to 62 ring

COMMUNITY One named a Colibri cutter.

$39 — At Colibri



GUILLOTINE

XIKAR

Xi2 cutter

The safe pick. It comes with Xikar's limited lifetime warranty.

Double blade · Up to 60 ring

$49.99 — At Xikar



NEW

GUILLOTINE

LOTUS

Meteor cutter

One regular asked for this one by name.

Twin blades · Up to 64 ring · Locks shut

COMMUNITY One named the Lotus Meteor.

$79.95 — At Lotus



NEW

HEIRLOOM

S.T. DUPONT

Maxijet cigar cutter, chrome

One regular calls his Dupont gear an heirloom for his son.

Spring loaded · Chrome finish

COMMUNITY 2 named a Dupont cutter.

$245 — At S.T. Dupont



NEW

KNIFE

LES FINES LAMES

Le Petit cigar knife

I bought one this year. The one single-blade cutter I rate.

French folding knife · Up to 70 ring

From $162

At Corona Cigar

No affiliate links. We earn nothing if you buy.

2 The lighter. *Torch or soft flame?*

Both schools have merit. Just buy a real brand.







Cedar spills on a lounge table. Anatolie's own photo.

✓ LOOK FOR

- A real brand with a warranty.
- Lights first time and holds a steady flame.
- Butane. A Zippo needs a butane insert.

× SKIP

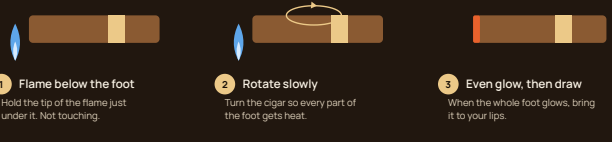
- Gimmick lighters.
- Anything on lighter fluid. It can leave a taste.
- Five-dollar gas station torches. Mine died within a week.

MY SETUP

- I toast and light with a soft flame.
- In wind, or for a touch-up, I grab a torch.
- My cheap Vertigo Cyclone has lasted me years.



More flames, more heat. Soft flame is the gentlest.



Toasting in three steps. It takes under a minute and fixes most harsh first draws.

WORTH KNOWING

- Buy refined butane from a lighter brand
- Bleed the tank before refilling
- Cedar spills add a woody note
- Long matches: the traditional way
- Travelling: one regular suggests a Bic in a decorative cover

THE COMMUNITY SAYS

6 of 35 named a torch. 3 said a Bic. 2 said wooden matches.

> *"BIC gang !"*
> A regular on Instagram

> *"A triple torch lighter. It works great outdoors. But you have to manage the flame so it won't scorch the cigar"*
> A regular on Instagram

WHERE THEY FIGHT ME

THEM One commenter wrote that nobody who lights with a Bic is a cigar smoker. Two regulars use torches that cost $1 and $4.

ME A Bic works. I said it on camera and I'll say it here. For a gift, I'd still buy a torch with a warranty.



NEPTUNE CIGAR

Extra long cigar matches, 4 boxes

The traditional way to light up. About 20 matches a box.

4 boxes · Long matches

COMMUNITY 2 named matches.

$5.00 — At Neptune Cigar



BIC

Maxi pocket lighters, 5-pack

Low cost and it works. It toasts instead of torching. I find you catch the notes.

5-pack · Soft flame

COMMUNITY 3 named a Bic. One objected.

$5.79 — At Target



VERTIGO BY LOTUS

Cyclone triple torch

Mine has lasted me years.

Wind resistant · Clear fuel tank

COMMUNITY One named a triple torch.

$14.99 — At Lotus



ZIPPO

Double torch butane insert

Drops into a classic Zippo case, his old one included.

Butane insert · Engrave a new case

$23.95 — At Zippo



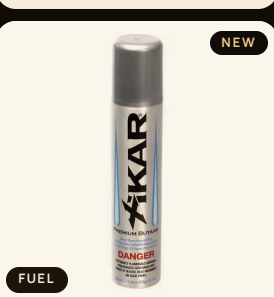
ZIPPO

Soft (yellow) flame butane insert

No lighter-fluid taste on the cigar.

Butane insert · Fits a Zippo case

$23.95 — At Zippo



XIKAR

Premium butane, 1.9 oz

Clean fuel keeps a torch alive. A small add-on gift.

For jet lighters · Under 15 ppm impurities

$9.99 — At Xikar



XIKAR

Allume 2 double jet lighter

Lights small and large cigars and still fits a pocket.

Two angled jets

$69.99 — At Xikar



COLIBRI

Julius double flame

Stays lit outdoors, and it looks premium.

Roll-bar ignition

$135 — At Colibri



S.T. DUPONT

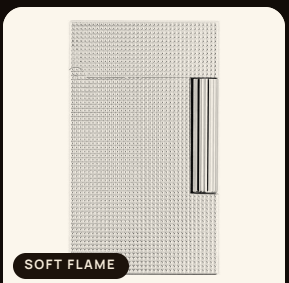
Minijet torch lighter

A compact way into a real Dupont. I carry a Dupont myself.

Compact · Lacquered

COMMUNITY 2 named Dupont lighters.

$210 — At S.T. Dupont



S.T. DUPONT

Ligne 2 soft flame

The soft-flame holy grail, with that famous ping.

The lid pings

From $1,350

At S.T. Dupont

No affiliate links. We earn nothing if you buy.

3 The fixers. *Small and loved.*

Cheap, useful, and great as stocking stuffers.



A draw tool

- Saves an expensive cigar that won't pull.
- Push it into the head, twist, pull it out.

A 3-in-1 tool

- A punch, a needle and a fork for the nub.
- My favourite cigar utensil. Search "Modus II cigar tool".

A cigar stand

- Rests it while you talk.
- One regular says stop resting cigars on shared ashtrays.

Is he a finisher?

- I finish every cigar I light, with a fork.
- Five regulars finish the nub in a pipe.
- A metal nubber can taste off once the ember reaches it.

THE COMMUNITY SAYS

At least 5 of 35 named a draw tool. 2 named a multi-tool.

> *"The best accessory is the perfecdraw. Small investment to make that pays for itself."*
> A regular on Instagram

> *"My cigar multi-tool is the best thing ever"*
> A regular on Instagram

WHERE THEY FIGHT ME

THEM One regular says draw tools only exist because Cuban cigars are rolled too tight now.

ME Maybe so. A plugged cigar is still a plugged cigar, and I'd rather fix it than bin it.



DRAW TOOL

PERFECDRAW

Draw tool

Fixes a plugged cigar. Seems like a gimmick, but it works.

Push, twist, pull

COMMUNITY 3 named it. At least 5 named a draw tool.

$35.99 At The Perfec Smoke



STAND

PERFECPUNCH

Punch and stand

Sits on the table and cuts too.

Cigar rest · Punch blades built in

COMMUNITY 2 named a cigar holder.

$47.94 At The Perfec Smoke



NEW

MULTI-TOOL

XIKAR

MTX multi-tool scissors

Scissors, a poker and a bottle opener in one fold.

Five tools in one · Folds for carry · Limited lifetime warranty

COMMUNITY One named a multi-tool.

$59.99 At Xikar

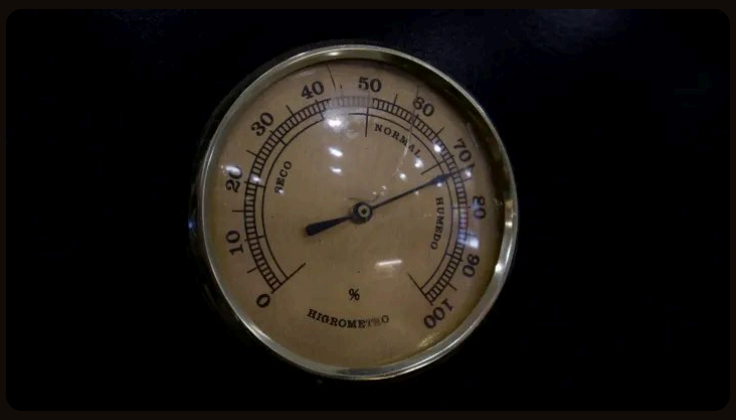
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4 Storage. *Cedar beats plastic.*

Six regulars use plastic or a jar. I still pick cedar.



A wooden humidor with a hygrometer and humidifier in the lid.
Photo: Langinger · Public domain



An analog dial. Check it against a calibrated digital hygrometer.
Photo: André Julien · Unsplash licence

Plastic preserves

- An airtight box plus a Boveda pack.
- Fine for a few months.
- Opening it feels like meal prep.

Cedar ages

- Spanish cedar breathes and holds humidity steady.
- I find cigars keep developing in cedar.
- For the man building a collection.

✓ LOOK FOR

- Spanish cedar and a real seal.
- One Boveda pack per 25 cigars.
- A digital sensor to check the dial.

× SKIP

- Cheap wooden humidors. I'd spend $100 or more.
- Trusting the dial that came in the lid.

65 OR 69?

- More than 60 people gave me a number.
- Most keep it at 67% or under.
- 65% was the most common answer.
- Can't ask him? 69% sits inside my 65 to 72% range.



Where the humidity should sit. Boveda sells both packs.



Getting a new wooden humidor right. The 14 days is Boveda's method.

THE COMMUNITY SAYS

Boveda was named by at least 18 people across three of my storage videos. No other brand came close.

5 people use a digital sensor. Nobody named an analog dial.

> *"Way too much work. Boveda and a Govee."*
> A regular on Instagram

> *"Now that I'm older I'm pretty sure 65/65 is the TRUE sweet spot."*
> A regular on Facebook

WHERE THEY FIGHT ME

THEM Six regulars keep their cigars in a tupperdor or an airtight jar. One reports zero issues.

ME It works, and I said so above. I still want cedar around my cigars, not plastic.



BOVEDA

Humidor bag

A tupperdor without the bulk. The Boveda pack is already inside.

Small, medium or large · Airtight

COMMUNITY 6 use a tupperdor or a jar.

From $7.99 — At Boveda



GOVEE

Bluetooth hygrometer H5075

It keeps the dial honest.

Accurate to 3% · Readings on his phone

COMMUNITY 2 named Govee. 5 use a digital sensor.

$11.69 — At Govee



BOVEDA

Humidor starter kit

Everything a new wooden humidor needs to get started.

Seasoning packs · Humidity packs

COMMUNITY At least 18 named Boveda.

$18.99 — At Boveda



BOVEDA

Size 60 packs, 65% or 69%, 4-pack

Holds the humidor steady on its own.

65% or 69% · One pack per 25 cigars

COMMUNITY At least 18 named Boveda.

$22.49 — At Boveda



HUMIDOR SUPREME

Alhambra 100 humidor

Spanish cedar and a proper seal.

A true 55 to 95 cigars

$208.99 — At Xikar



BOVEDA

50-count humidor

He swaps one big pack every six months. No fiddling.

50 cigars · Spanish cedar

$299 — At Boveda



NEWAIR

250-count electric humidor

A good fit for a warm room.

Cools to 52°F · 250 cigars · Cedar shelves

$374.99 — At Newair



DANIEL MARSHALL

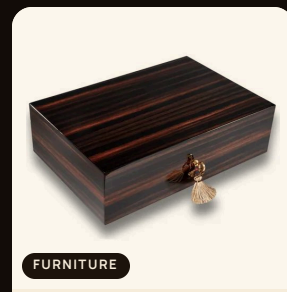
Ambiente 65 humidor

Hand-built in the US. A furniture piece.

Spanish cedar · Gold-plated hinges

COMMUNITY One owns an early-80s Ambiente and calls it his best humidor.

$590.99 — At Northwoods



ELIE BLEU

Macassar ebony 50-cigar humidor

The French house that sets the bar.

Lacquered ebony · Spanish cedar · 50 cigars

$2,700 — At Northwoods

No affiliate links. We earn nothing if you buy.

5 The travel case. *Underrated.*

Nobody named one. I still rate it.



A tube protects one cigar. For a night out, he wants a real case. Anatolie's own photo.

✓ LOOK FOR

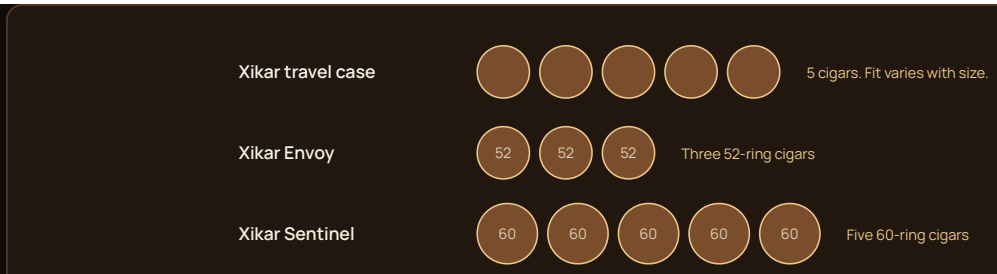
- Leather with a cedar lining.
- Crush-proof, for two or three cigars.
- His cigar size. Check the ring gauge the case takes.

× SKIP

- Flimsy plastic tubes. Fine for one cigar, not a night out.

A BAG FOR EVERYTHING

- Cheap: a $24.99 pouch for his gear.
- Mid: a $149 leather bag with a cedar tray.
- High: the $199.99 Xikar Sentinel.



What each case holds, with ring gauges to scale.

THE COMMUNITY SAYS

Nobody named a travel case when I asked.

WHY IT STAYS

THEM Zero of 35 said a case was worth buying.

ME I call it underrated for a reason. It makes a thoughtful gift.

NEW



HARD CASE

XIKAR

Travel case, 5 cigars

Not leather, but airtight and crushproof.

Molded ABS · Humidifier inside

$35.99 At Xikar



LEATHER

XIKAR

Envoy triple leather case

Three 52-ring cigars ride safe in a jacket.

Cedar lined · Telescopes 4.25 to 7 in

$82.99 At Xikar

NEW



BAG · CHEAP

CIGARISM

Cigar accessories bag

Fits a cigar case, his cutters and his lighters.

Nylon and leather · YKK zips

$24.99 At Cigarism

NEW



BAG · MID

CIGARISM

Leather cigar travel bag

Holders for a lighter, a cutter and a punch. Four to five cigars.

Italian oil wax leather · Spanish cedar

$149 At Cigarism

NEW



BAG · HIGH

XIKAR

Sentinel leather case

One bag for a whole trip.

Five 60-ring cigars · Lighter and cutter pockets

$199.99 At Xikar

No affiliate links. We earn nothing if you buy.

6 The ashtray. *The one he sees daily.*

It doesn't live in a drawer.





My own afternoon setup: a white ceramic ashtray and a coffee.
Anatolie's own photo.

✓ LOOK FOR

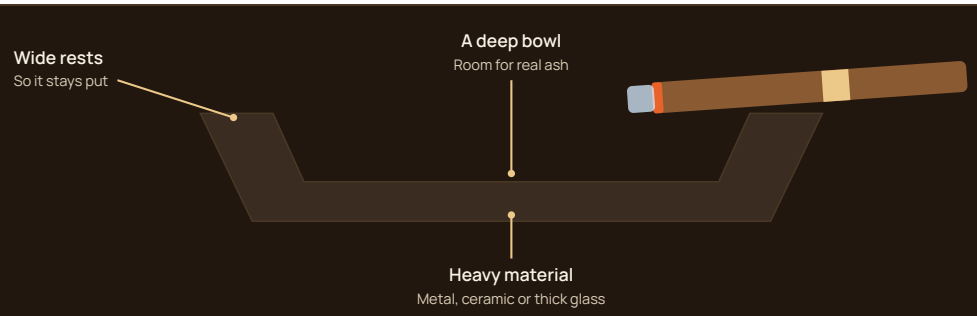
- Heavy material: metal, ceramic or thick glass.
- Deep enough for real ash.
- Wide rests, so the cigar stays put.

◎ MATCH IT

- Outside: a deep, heavy bowl for windy days.
- At a desk: wide rests and a stable base.

→ PASS IT ON

- Don't stub a cigar out.
- Set it down and let it go out on its own.



What a good cigar ashtray gets right.

THE COMMUNITY SAYS

Nobody named an ashtray either.

> *"An elegant cigare holder is a damn fine accessory to have."*
> A regular on Instagram

WHY IT STAYS

THEM One regular told people to stop resting cigars on shared ashtrays.

ME That's an argument for giving him his own. It's the gift he sees every day.



NEW

ONE CIGAR

STINKY CIGAR

Personal ashtray

A deep steel bowl with one rest. The cheap way in.

5 in wide · Solid steel

$24.99 — At Xikar



OUTDOOR

STINKY CIGAR

Tall ashtray

Works on a windy patio as well as a desk.

Deep bowl · Windproof · Four rests

From $49.99 — At Xikar



NEW

HOST

COLIBRI

Rally ashtray

The upgrade for the man who hosts.

Heavy · Six rests · Two-tone

$175 — At Colibri

No affiliate links. We earn nothing if you buy.

THE SECRET

Make it *personal*

– A nice lighter is a nice lighter. One with his initials can't be replaced.
– Put it where he sees it. A desk lighter. A heavy ashtray on the patio.
– Engraving is the easy part. Timing is where most people get caught.

THE COMMUNITY SAYS

One regular bought S.T. Dupont to pass on to his son.

> *"I consider my investment an heirloom purchase that will be gifted to him."*
> A regular on Instagram

AND ONE WARNING

THEM Another regular lost a $50 cutter and never bought one again.

ME Put his name on it. An engraved cutter has a better chance of coming home.

How to order it without mistakes

STEP 1

Pick something that takes it

Chrome, brass, steel, leather, wood and glass engrave well. Zippo prints on painted and matte finishes.

STEP 2

Keep the text short

More letters means smaller text. Check the item page for its limit.

STEP 3

Initials on small things

Save dates and quotes for a humidor lid. Initials suit the small things.

STEP 4

Proofread twice

Read your text twice before you order. Ask for a proof when the shop offers one.

STEP 5

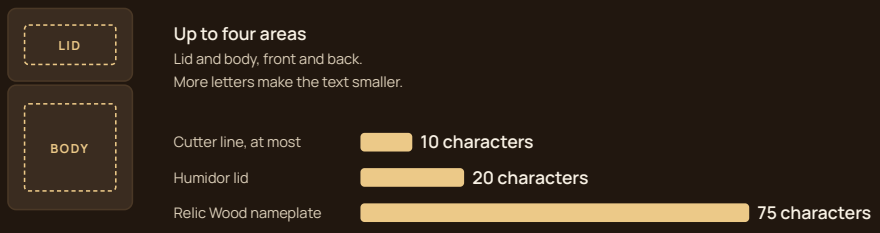
Watch the clock

Outside the holidays, eLighters ships engraving in 3 to 4 business days. A custom humidor can take 12 to 14.

STEP 6

It's final sale

Many sellers won't take back a personalized piece unless it arrives faulty.



A Zippo takes engraving on up to four areas. Shorter text reads better.

Where to get it done

WHO	WHAT THEY PERSONALIZE	PRICE	TIME
Zippo Customize It	Engraved or printed Zippo lighters, up to four areas. Add a butane insert for cigars.	$19.95 to $47.95 with the lighter	Ships within 10 business days
eLighters	Cutters, lighters, cases, humidors and ashtrays	First line free, extra lines cost more	Most ship in 3 to 4 business days
GroomsDay	Humidors, cigar boxes, leather travel sets and cutters	Engraved humidor from $39.99	Ships in 2 business days
Cigar Cutters by Jim	Cutters, cases and ashtrays with military, first-responder and trade emblems	Emblem cutters from $29.99	Stock pieces ship within 48 hours
Relic Wood	Custom humidors with artwork and a nameplate of up to 75 characters	From $269	12 to 14 business days after you approve the art
Klaro	Monogrammed humidors and travel cases	$24.99 on a humidor	Not stated
Les Fines Lames	An engraved handle on the Le Petit knife	$30	Not stated
S.T. Dupont	Three initials on lighters and pens. Let the maker do lacquer.	Ask the boutique	Not stated
Etsy	Engraved humidors and travel cases from small shops. Pick shops with thousands of reviews.	Varies	Some ship within a day
Your local trophy shop	Plates, plaques and flat metal. Bring the piece in and see a proof first.	Ask	Ask
Things Engraved (Canada)	Engraved flip-top lighters and flasks	Lighters from CA$19.99	Ships the next business day
Zippo Germany (EU)	Engraved Zippo lighters	€29.90 to €69.90	6 to 8 working days
Adorini (EU)	Engraved brass name plates for humidors	Quote by email	About 3 business days

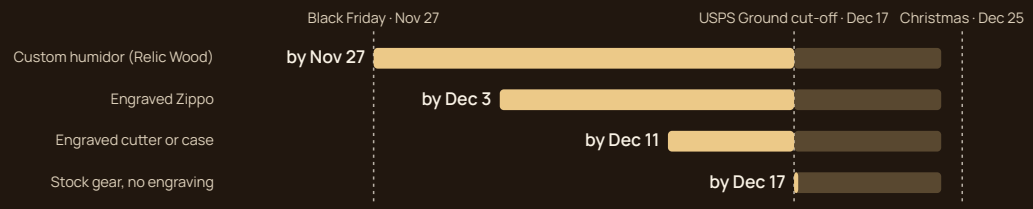
Custom cigar bands for the big day

Weddings, births and retirements call for a band with names and a date. Initials fit three characters. Put the date on a short second line.

WHO	WHAT YOU GET	PRICE	TIME
Avery	Printed bands only. You put them on the cigars.	80 bands for $50.88, orders from 20	Ships in about 3 business days
Bobalu Cigar Co.	Cigars with your custom label, artwork included	One-box minimum	About a week
Etsy band shops	Adhesive bands with initials or a monogram	Packs of 6 to 144	Varies by shop

What engraves well

MATERIAL	RESULT
Chrome, brass, steel	Sharp, high-contrast and permanent
Anodized aluminum	The laser removes the colour layer, so the text shows bright
Painted or matte finish	Zippo prints on these instead of engraving
Lacquer	Leave it to the maker
Leather	Laser, embossing or a foil stamp
Wood and Spanish cedar	Hardwood engraves darker than softwood
Glass and crystal	A frosted look. Crystal can crack under the laser.
Ceramic and stone	Dark, even stone gives the best contrast



Gold: making it. Light: in the mail. Our estimate from published lead times, lower 48.

Work back from Christmas. Custom pieces need the most time, so order those first.

What to put on it

— **His initials.** The safe choice on a lighter or cutter.

— **A date that matters.** A wedding, a promotion, the first cigar you smoked together.

— **An inside joke.** Only the two of you get it. That's the point.

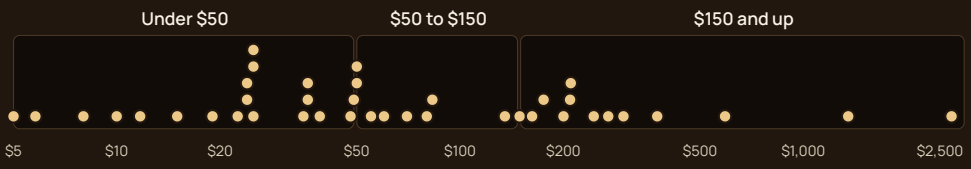
— **A place.** Coordinates of home or a favourite spot, on a humidor lid.

— **His world.** A branch of service, a badge, his trade or his team.

SHOP BY BUDGET

Pick your *price*

Every pick, sorted by price. Tap one to jump to it.



Each dot is one pick in this guide. Price scale is logarithmic, so every step is a multiple.

Every pick in this guide on one price line. Most great gifts sit under $100.

Under *$50*

- Neptune Cigar Extra long cigar matches, 4 boxes — $5.00
- BIC Maxi pocket lighters, 5-pack — $5.79
- Boveda Humidor bag — From $7.99
- Xikar Premium butane, 1.9 oz — $9.99
- Govee Bluetooth hygrometer H5075 — $11.69
- Vertigo by Lotus Cyclone triple torch — $14.99
- Boveda Humidor starter kit — $18.99
- Boveda Size 60 packs, 65% or 69%, 4-pack — $22.49
- Zippo Double torch butane insert — $23.95
- Zippo Soft (yellow) flame butane insert — $23.95
- Stinky Cigar Personal ashtray — $24.99
- Cigarism Cigar accessories bag — $24.99

$50 to $150

- Xikar VX2 V-cutter — $54.99
- Xikar MTX multi-tool scissors — $59.99
- Xikar Allume 2 double jet lighter — $69.99
- Lotus Meteor cutter — $79.95
- Xikar Envoy triple leather case — $82.99
- Colibri Julius double flame — $135

$150 *and up*

- Les Fines Lames Le Petit cigar knife — From $162
- Colibri Rally ashtray — $175
- Xikar Sentinel leather case — $199.99
- Humidor Supreme Alhambra 100 humidor — $208.99
- S.T. Dupont Minijet torch lighter — $210

- Palió Original double guillotine — $24.99
- Holt's Cigar of the Month Club — $34.95 a month
- PerfecDraw Draw tool — $35.99
- Xikar Travel case, 5 cigars — $35.99
- Colibri Cut double guillotine — $39
- PerfecPunch Punch and stand — $47.94
- Colibri V-Cut — $49
- Stinky Cigar Tall ashtray — From $49.99
- Xikar Xi2 cutter — $49.99

Most of these work as a standalone gift.

- Cigarism Leather cigar travel bag — $149

The sweet spot. Upgrades he won't buy himself.

- S.T. Dupont Maxijet cigar cutter, chrome — $245
- Flaviar Whiskey Advent Calendar 2026 — $270
- Boveda 50-count humidor — $299
- Newair 250-count electric humidor — $374.99
- Daniel Marshall Ambiente 65 humidor — $590.99
- S.T. Dupont Ligne 2 soft flame — From $1,350
- Elie Bleu Macassar ebony 50-cigar humidor — $2,700

At this level, an evening at a lounge together may beat any object.

BLUNT ADVICE

What to *skip*

- ✕ **Amazon combo kits** — I'd buy the pieces one by one.
- ✕ **The dial in the lid** — Compare the dial with a calibrated digital hygrometer.
- ✕ **"Cubans" from sketchy sources** — If the deal looks too good, walk away.
- ✕ **Infused cigars** — I don't mind them. They're a gamble as a gift.
- ✕ **Single-blade cutters** — I find they crush the cap. The Les Fines Lames knife is my one exception.
- ✕ **Sets with "aficionado" on the box** — Usually marketing over quality.

PAIRING

What to *pour with it*

Match the weight. Not everyone drinks, so coffee is on the list.

Lighter cigar, lighter drink. Match the weight, not the price.

MILD	MEDIUM	FULL
Coffee, cream soda, light beer	Bourbon, port, amber ale	Scotch, aged rum, stout, espresso

Pairing by strength.

- A mild cigar gets lost next to a peaty scotch.
- A full cigar flattens a light beer.
- Pour small. He tastes both better.
- He doesn't drink? Coffee is a classic pairing.







FLAVIAR

Whiskey Advent Calendar 2026

Samples to try against his cigars through December.

24 samples, 50 ml each

Bourbon, rye, world whiskey

$270 At Flaviar



HOLT'S

Cigar of the Month Club

Five handmade cigars picked by the staff each month.

Tasting notes

Boveda pack included

$34.95 a month

At Holt's

No affiliate links. We earn nothing if you buy.

NO TIME, NO CLUE

No idea? *Start here*

1

The Xikar Xi2

Safe and universal. Every smoker can use a better cutter.

Xikar Xi2 cutter $49.99

2

A leather travel case

It shows you thought about how he lives.

Xikar Envoy triple leather case $82.99

3

A handwritten note

"Let's smoke together soon." It costs nothing.

$0

MONEY

Spend *where it counts*

PAY FULL PRICE

- A cutter with a real warranty.
- A lighter with a warranty.
- A humidor. A bad seal dries the cigars out.

SAVE HERE

- Budget cases and ashtrays.
- Check the delivery estimate before you order.

WATCH THE CALENDAR

- Some cigar retailers run Black Friday sales.
- Check them before paying full price.

SHOPS WE TRUST

Where to *buy*

Better still, walk into his local lounge. The tobacconist often knows what he smokes.



A walk-in shop beats any website for advice.
Photo: Alek Olson · Unsplash licence

United States

CIGARS

- Famous Smoke Shop huge range, sharp prices
- Cigars International free shipping, no minimum
- JR Cigar
- Holt's home of the club above
- Atlantic Cigar
- Cigar Page daily deals
- Cigora formerly Cigar.com

GEAR

- Xikar cutters, lighters, cases
- Colibri cutters, lighters, ashtrays
- Boveda humidity packs, humidors

ENGRAVING

- Zippo Customize It engrave a classic case
- Etsy small shops, custom emblems

Canada

CIGARS AND GEAR

- Cigar Chief flat-rate shipping
- Smoke Master Cigars good selection
- Cigar Vault Ontario, premium range

ENGRAVING

- Etsy Canada or a local trophy shop

Europe

CIGARS AND GEAR

- Cigarworld Germany, Europe's biggest range
- Rauchr German shop

ENGRAVING

- Etsy or a local engraver

YOUR TURN

Tell me what *I missed*

This guide changed because of 35 comments under one video.

Got a piece of gear you'd fight for? Tell me under the video. I read every comment.

FINAL WORD

The best gift is *your time*

Cigars were never really about cigars. They're an excuse to slow down, sit with someone and actually talk.

Fight me if you disagree. One on one, in Riga. We can light one up together after.

So buy the cutter. Then show up.

Real Smoke. Real Stories.

We checked every price on the seller's own page on November 15, 2026. Prices can change. This guide has no affiliate links, and no brand paid to be in it.

Reader counts come from public comments on my recent gear videos. We counted them by hand, one count per person, clear answers only. Quotes are word for word, with names left out.

For adults of legal smoking age. Cigar smoking can cause cancer. Nicotine is addictive, and smoke harms others. Read the National Cancer Institute's guidance.