

2010 HOLIDAY DRINKS, GIFT & ENTERTAINING GUIDE

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gear Which electric wine opener takes center stage?

Opening Act

If you plan to keep plenty of wine flowing throughout the holidays, an electric wine opener can make your life much easier. Electric openers can effortlessly uncork wine bottles (not Champagne) in a flash, but it can be hard to tell which ones maximize convenience while minimizing headaches. So we recently put six electric openers through their paces, testing each for ergonomics, speed and how well they handle both real and synthetic corks. In the end, we found that one model offers the most bang for the buck, surpassing the others in speed, design and ease with which it opens bottle after bottle—all at a great price.

By Tracy Howard

✓ **Our Pick**
Ozeri Nouveaux



\$20, amazon.com

Pros: Automatically stops when the cork is fully removed; detachable foil cutter locks snugly into the top of the opener; clear body shows you what's happening while in operation; quickest of all models tested; inexpensive; easily removes both real and synthetic corks; fits nicely in the hand.

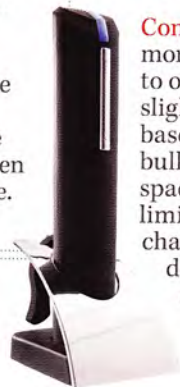
Cons: Moderately noisy, sounding like an electric coffee grinder; neon blue glow distracts when charging or in use.

Brookstone

\$40, brookstone.com

Pros: Foil cutter is included and hangs from charging base; automatically stops when cork is fully removed; blue light indicates when charging; easily removes both real and synthetic corks.

Cons: Requires more counterforce to operate and puts slight strain on wrist; base is somewhat bulky and takes up space for those with limited storage; charging light doesn't change color to let you know when the opener is fully charged.



Waring Pro

\$60, macys.com

Pros: Automatically stops when cork is fully removed from bottle; indicator light blinks when charging and changes to solid when fully charged; lightweight; easily removes both real and synthetic corks; foil cutter is included and neatly housed in charging base.

Cons: Base is somewhat bulky, making storage more of a challenge; diameter is larger than other models tested, making it awkward for smaller hands to grasp; expensive.



Oster

\$25, target.com

Pros: Automatically stops when cork is fully removed; lightweight; faster and quieter than other models tested; smaller diameter makes it easy to hold and operate; foil cutter is included

and housed in charging base; red light indicates when charging; easily removes both real and synthetic corks.

Cons: Oversized charging light doesn't indicate when charge is complete; plastic construction feels less durable than others tested.



Peugeot

\$120, williams-sonoma.com

PROS: Automatically stops when cork is fully removed; attractive, solid, stainless steel design; body can be easily disassembled with a small screwdriver for corkscrew and internal hardware replacement.

Cons: Requisite foil cutter not included; difficult to use on synthetic corks; noisy and sounds like a small electric drill; heavy; requires more pressure to operate; charging light doesn't indicate when full charge is reached; takes the longest time to open bottles out of all models tested; expensive.



Metrokane

\$50, macys.com

Pros: Attractive, modern design; electronic display indicates when full charge is reached as well as the number of bottles it will open before needing to be recharged; easily removes both real and synthetic corks; lightweight; foil cutter included.

Cons: Doesn't come with a stand yet doesn't sit flat on the counter when plugged into the wall for charging; foil cutter is flimsy and must be stored separately.

