

## Asking Project Managers the Awkward Question



It is coming to that time of year when project managers are asked that most awkward of questions. Despite your complete grasp of all manner of things at work and on your projects you appear shocked when this topic arises and might mutter something like "I will have to get back to you".

The question from colleagues, friends and family is the eternal "**What would you like for Christmas?**"

This is a reasonable question to the project manager who appears to have everything, knows everything and wants for nothing. And although enquiry, consideration and reply removes the element of complete surprise, it does increase the chances of getting something you might like or need.

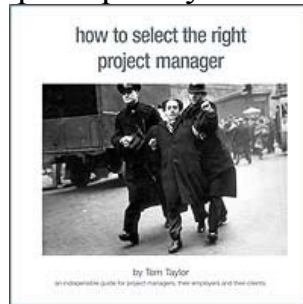
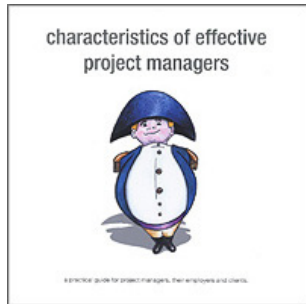
Of course the **Number One Tip** is to keep notes across the year of possible suitable gifts of interest as you see them. The notes can be kept in your daybook, diary or laptop - if you do not have one of these then they are immediate potential gift targets.

You can also add to the list the items you hoped to get last year but did not; the items other people received and you wished you had; and the items you gave but wished you had received.

The **Second Tip** is not to look as if you have a prepared list but need to think about it for a while. This will enable you to assess their budget capabilities against your list and any suggestions they may make - for mutual benefit and to avoid undue distress - especially for small children.

Fashions, styles and budgets change each year prompted by relationships, the economy and the retail sector. It may be of interest for some readers to know in advance what some of the top gifts for project managers might be for this year. Here are some likely candidates:

- a memory stick - because there is so much to remember,
- tickets, travel and time off to attend one or more of the excellent Project Management Conferences round the world
- a project management book - serious or light - including Dashdot publications - as a suitably economic item to give as well as to receive - can be obtained quite quickly



- a project management magazine subscription
- a new pillow to help you sleep better
- a set of Sesame Street videos - to calm you down and for old times sake,
- a 2010 calendar featuring pictures of Power Station projects,
- a sustainable, environmentally friendly, green torch,
- something related to the approaching decade... perhaps a diary, day book or laptop.

**Good luck with your giving and receiving this year.**