

The Accutone Gazette

Product Development | Channel Expansion | Marketing Activities & Exhibitions

Y-Cord | Training Cables

A learner driver will never truly gain experience unless s/he gets on the real road. Yet, allowing an inexperienced driver behind the wheel can be dangerous to everyone else on the road.

Accompanying with a driving instructor of course helps, but what about the safety of the instructor. This is why we see Instructor Vehicle with brakes and steering wheel on the passenger side. This allows the instructor to stop or turn away in case of an emergency.

In a call center, a trainee can never become an agent without experience, but to get such experience, they need to be placed in real life situations, answering real calls. Just like the learner driver, a call center trainee needs help from causing damage to him/herself but mainly the reputation of the company.

Recording the conversation is one way, but it is perhaps too late to review mistakes, once real damage is done. Instead, a Y-cord training cable lets user connect two headsets together. Supervisor can listen in on a call using a mute switch on his/her end, but can also jump in and take over the call any time s/he feels the need to do so.

Y-Cord starting at just USD36, visit our website biz.accutone.com for details:



Chinese Zodiac

Happy Chinese New Year! The Gazette wishes our readers a healthy and prosperous year of the Monkey!

Speaking of the Monkey, most of us know that the Chinese assigns a different animal from the zodiac to each year in a 12-year cycle. Multiplied by the 5 elements (Metal, Wood, Water, Fire, Earth) deduced from calculating each year's Heavenly Stem vs Earthly Branch, equals a 60-year grand cycle known as a JiaZi (甲子).

But why? Why these 12 animals, have you ever wondered?

First, let's name them in the correct order, the Rat, the Ox, the Tiger, the Rabbit, the Dragon, the Snake, the Horse, the Goat, the Monkey, the Rooster, the Dog and the Pig.

Well, according to legends, during the Ancient times, man's knowledge of measuring time is very limited, not even understanding the meaning of a year:

So to help them remember, the Jade Emperor hosted a competition for naming the Zodiac, using the name of the first 12 animals to reach the Heavenly Emperor's birthday banquet across the Sky River.

The Cat and the Rat were best friends, and although both can't swim, convinced the Ox to carry them. However, on the day of the tournament, the Cat overslept. The Rat wanted the honor of being the first in the Zodiac didn't wake up his best friend, instead convinced the Ox to leave without him.

The Rat promised the Ox he will stay on his back, and let the Ox win, but at the last moment, the Rat jumped over, finishing first. Other animals finished where they were for various reasons, but the Cat, one of the most popular animal, will never have a year name after him.

According to the Chinese, this is the reason why cats will always chase rats.

Market News

RENMINBI CRASHED

(Credits: Faungg via Flickr)



The Chinese currency, Renminbi (RMB) has been depreciating since the beginning of 2016, and shows no sign of reversion.

On January 31, RMB stood at 6.611 per USD, the weakest point since April 2011. It has declined for one straight quarter; from 6.3044 on November 1 down to 6.611 on January 31, representing a 5% depreciation that should keep a lot of people up at night.

Firstly, those who are going abroad are most likely to be affected. Most of them are students to study abroad. They will have to spend more on tuition fees and living costs, since more RMB are required in exchange for the same amount of foreign currencies.

Secondly, those who will have to deal with foreign currencies will also be affected. For example, those who like to do overseas shopping online, this group of people likes to buy overseas goods, such as apparels and cosmetics of famous brands, which all have to be paid in foreign currencies. Besides, tourists to travel abroad will be affected, both DIY travelers and package tours can't be free from this influence.

In addition to the abovementioned direct impacts, RMB depreciation also has other indirect influences on Chinese people. For example, a few years ago when RMB appreciated, huge amount of foreign capital flowed into China's real estate industry. As RMB is depreciating now,

foreign capital is flowing out, which will definitely have impacts on China's real estate, especially those in the first tier cities like Beijing, Shanghai.

Moreover, following the depreciation of RMB, consumables prices will hike. Given China has already under inflation, the money will be less and less valuable and people's purchasing power will decline.

However, RMB depreciation needs not be all bad to China. Meanwhile, the manufacturing sector, a key pillar of China's economy, suffered badly since RMB appreciated continuously in the last 5 years. The devaluation of RMB might stimulate the exporting of domestic industries including textile, iron & steel, electronics, chemicals, automobile, thus benefiting economy.

A recent [IMF study](#) estimated that a 10% depreciation of an economy's real effective exchange rate translates into an average boost in its real exports of 1.5% domestic products, yet it will take time to see that.

In Chinese astrology, 2016 is the year of the monkey that is ambitious and adventurous, but irritable. The Monkey has already shown its irritation in the first month of the year; China's economy is expected to face lot of challenges in the following months, see if the Monkey will bring China good luck and new opportunities in the rest of 2016.



Depending on who you ask, this article can also be named "iPhone 5se Rumors", as the closer we approach Apple's annual phone launch, the model "6c" is being replaced by a more confusing name "5se".

Apple's iPhone 5 is one of the most popular

Rumors and Trends

iPhone 6c Rumors

smartphone ever built. Its 4" display size, to many, is the optimal size in terms of mobility vs usability. However, the market trend was moving toward big screens, and Apple, uncharacteristically but perhaps right-fully followed such trend.

With so many details coming out of Apple "insiders", such as Macrumors, techradar and 9to5Mac, we are certain that Apple is launching a new 4" phone. However, just like the discrepancy towards its official name, rumors sites can't seem to agree on what the device looks like. Some suggests it's going to be named 6c, so a 4" version of an iPhone 6s while others calls it the 5se, suggesting it as an mere upgraded version of the iPhone 5s?

Whichever it is, we know that it will have a

4-inch 1136x640 display with rounded glass edges like that of an iPhone 6. It will most likely use the A9 chip, supporting Touch ID, Apple Pay Support (NFC), Live Photos but not 3D Touch. It will also have a smaller battery than the iPhone 6s, at 1,642mAh.

Since the rumor first started out as a 6c rumor: colors is a key feature for the new phone. Rumors has it that it will come in Silver; Space Grey and a bright Pink shade similar to the 7th generation iPod Nano. But with such little consensus on how it actually looks, this is a rare occasion of an old-product revamp with so much unknown.

The 6c or 5se, will be priced around USD400 to 500. Apple will launch it along with iPad Air 3 on March 15, and should be available for purchase on March 18, 2016.

(Las Vegas) Needless to say, Drones was definitely THE hottest robotic products in 2015. Drones, or more accurately, UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) generated a multi-billion dollar industry starting with the likes of Parrot AR Drones, DJI Phantom Drones to the many variation brands in between.

Just like in any other industry, this success has attracted many manufacturers, mostly from China, to show off their latest drone products in CES 2016 in Las Vegas.

From the size of a few feet wide to a few meter wide, there were many me-too products, some only differ in size, while others not even in size.

Yet, from time to time, we do see true innovations, and thanks to the development of Intel® RealSense™ Tech solution, Drones can now “see, think and adapt” according to the surroundings, especially in low-light environments.

Drones using RealSense, like the Firefly, support Companion Fly, Self-Navigation, Automatic Obstacle Recognition System, making drones more intelligence than ever.

Business Insight

CES 2016: Drones



(EHANG184 From Official Site)

However intelligent these drones become, they still require human staying on the ground to control the take off and navigate, right?

How about a drone that can carry “you” and let you explore the world with your own eyes! This is precisely what EHANG came up with. The EHANG 184 is the first one to build a drone that can carry one passenger.

In fact, this make the EHANG not a UAV, as it's no longer Unmanned.

Safety concerns aside, this development is quite significant in that it breaks the boundary of drone from aerial recording, into the realms of transportation. This used to something inside a Sci-Fi movie. In fact the EHANG184 feels a bit like the BubbleShip Tom Cruise flies in the movie Oblivion (2013).

E-Sports News

NA LCS Spring 2016



Hey Gamers, the turn of the new year has brought many E-sports competitions, and I'd like to bring our attention to the North America LCS Spring of 2016.

The NA LCS Spring 2016 commenced in January and ten teams were looking to qualify for Worlds Competitions. The 1st and 2nd place teams will secure first round byes in the playoffs, meanwhile the 4th will play the 5th place team, the 3rd will play the 6th place team in the quarter-finals. 7th place or lower teams will not make the playoffs.

Champion of this round will automatically qualify for Worlds as a first seed from that region.

2 new teams NRG E-sports and Immortals got a head start this month, as both won 2 rounds and both lead the game. 6 teams: Counter Logic Gaming, Team SoloMid, Cloud9, Team Dignitas, Renegades and Echo Fox all had 1 win and 1 loss, while Team Liquid and Team Impulse loss both games.

The opener is Team SoloMid vs Counter Logic Gaming. It was a good battle, Team SoloMid made changes to their 4-player team this season, so in terms of team-chemistry, Counter Logic Gaming has the upper-hand. It showed, as CLG made the first kill under the first 3 mins of the game. This proved costly for TSM as it meant losing many game points.

Final results was CLS over TSM, winning their first game of the season.

The EHANG184, if or when it's ready for the market will create a lot of concerns. Safety, licensing, regulations...etc, but it will also open the door to the possibility of people owning a driveable-drone just like owning a car today.

When that day arrives, road systems will no longer be flat and 2D but truly 3-dimensional with vertical paths that we've only seen in the movies.

Buildings can be even higher, and elevators will not be the only way to get to your floor. Parking space are no longer on the ground or underground, instead on the balcony. Instead of a large drive-way and front door, your home will need a bigger window as entrance.

The dream of personal aerial travel has long been a science fiction. It is one of the biggest remaining “futuristic dream” yet to be met. Go watch Back to the Future II again, and you'll see what I mean.

Last but not least, Nokia is making a comeback with drones?? What's that all about?? Who are they designing it for? We will take a look at it next time.